



MUSTANG NEWS



November 2009

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

Just last weekend I had the privilege and pleasure to join Sarah MacArthur and her mother for the Father Patrick Fogarty Awards Dinner in Toronto. The Father Fogarty Awards recognizes the achievements and contributions of Catholic educators and honours the winners of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (C.E.F.O) Student awards. During this wonderful gathering a total of 108 students from all around the province were recognized for their contributions to Catholic education in Ontario. Throughout the evening students were introduced and a short message was read aloud about the student. As each student was introduced, some common characteristics began to emerge about these students. First of all, they were very passionate about what they did. They know that it sometimes takes hard work to move a population and these students were more than willing to do their share. These students were very loyal to their respective high schools and they were all very proud of their accomplishments. I am very proud of Sarah and I want to congratulate her on her award. I also want to encourage all of our students to get involved and make a difference at St. Mary's High School. Our strength lies in those who are willing to put forth that little extra to make it happen. As we begin the month of November, let us remember all those who fought for freedom and peace.

CHAPLAINCY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Attending conferences refreshes one's sense of inspiration which ignite the dormant passions that lie deep within each of us. Nine students from St. Mary's attended *When Faith Meets Pedagogy* in Toronto to hear the Kielburger brothers speak and be involved in leadership workshops. Their message of youth empowerment challenges us to develop compassion, courage and a sense of community. Their new book entitled, *"The World Needs Your Kid"* and slogan, *"Be the Change"*, motivate the youth to put their faith into action against the social injustices which they have inherited from generations of passive bystanders. Religion without sacrifice therefore, is meaningless.

Recently, twenty students responded to the invitation to help in building homes for Habitat for Humanity in Warton. As such, these students experienced faith through action. Furthermore, our grade ten retreat offers the students an opportunity to help locally at the Native Centre, Salvation Army, Community Living, Victorious Living Centre and Safe N Sound. We can no longer raise a generation of passive bystanders (Dalai Lama), rather a generation whereby their minds and hearts are opened to be active up standers in solidarity with the poor. In Romans 12:2, St. Paul exhorts: *"Do not conform to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind so that you may judge what is God's will, what is good, pleasing and perfect"*. As Catholic educators it is our responsibility to ignite the passions the youth possess to *"Be the Change They Wish to See in the World"* (Gandhi). Let us stand together and provide the youth these experiences so that generations to follow will inherit a better world, one in which God intended to be. In his encyclical, *"Evangelii Nuntiandi"* Pope Paul VI expresses clearly the mission of the Church: *"We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church."*[36]. Let the youth therefore, help to evangelize our community.

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.



Pastor's Pasta Dinner

Sunday, November 8th 5:00 pm

Tickets: \$12 - adults

Children under 12—\$6

Children under 5 years of age eat for free.

Tickets available through St. Mary's Church office, or after all weekend Masses.



TALENT SHOW

Auditions for the Mustang Awards Talent Show will be held November 17th and 18th after school in the Drama room. If you have a talent, we want to see it! The Mustang Awards will be held December 10th at 6:30pm. Hope to see you all there! See Mrs. Ward for more details.

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.

Guidance News

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.

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

GRADE 9 REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

We are currently compiling a mailing list identifying all current Grade 8 students and parents who may be interested in coming to St. Mary's in September. We will use this list to send out information regarding upcoming dates (Parent Nights/ Student Orientation Days), information about our school and registration procedures. Grade 8 students currently at Notre Dame, St. Joseph's, and St. Peter's and St. Paul's will automatically receive this information. However, 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. Thank you for your assistance in getting the word out.

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 4th**, 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.

H1N1 Flu Virus

Influenza or “the flu” is a disease caused by a virus. The germs spread when someone with the flu coughs or sneezes and the droplets come into contact with another person’s nose, mouth or eyes. Watch for flu symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, fatigue and muscle pain. The protect yourself and others against the regular seasonal flu and the new pandemic H1N1 flu:

- Get vaccinated for both types of flu as soon as the vaccines are available.
- Wash your hands often throughout the day with soap and warm water for least 15 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based sanitizers to clean hands if soap and water are not available. Hand sanitizers will be made available to staff and students at St. Mary’s High School.
- Cough and sneeze into your upper sleeve or into a tissue, not into your hand. Throw out used tissues and wash hands right away.
- **STAY AT HOME IF YOU ARE SICK. Keep your son or daughter home from school if they show signs of illness.**
- Report your child’s absence to the school and include specific symptoms that your child is experiencing.
- Please note that we will be reporting attendance to the Public Health Unit each day



For more information see www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

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 !

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 ewspapers, 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.

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. 17th ~ Parent Council Meeting 7 pm

Nov. 24th ~ Mid Term Reports

Nov. 26th ~ Parent/Teacher Interviews

4:00-5:30 & 6:30-8:00 pm

Dec 3rd ~ School Dance

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

Wednesday November 25th

Wednesday February 24th

Wednesday May 5th



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 November 16th 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>