

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

St. Mary School, Choir and Orchestra Program

## Principal's Corner

*Dear Parents,*

*All around us, there are signs of spring. The days are longer, the sun is warmer and there is a longing to spend time in the garden. We are Easter people as we live in the faith and the hope of the Resurrection each day. May these days of Eastertide open our eyes to the needs of others and to the goodness in one another.*

*K. Fraumeni*

*"The Lord is Risen  
Risen Indeed"*

*Lord, thank you for the gift of life. Thank you for life that never ends. Thank you for taking care of the people who have already gone to heaven, especially people from our family. Thank you for teaching us about HOPE. Hope for new life; hope for a better world; a world of peace; a world of gentleness; a world of justice; a world of shared love. Thank you for our faith in the Risen Lord - Jesus our Brother.*

*AMEN*

St. Mary School presents  
"Guys and Dolls Jr."  
March 31 - April 3

Wolf Performance Hall  
Tickets are still available for evening performances on Wed., April 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, April 2, 2009. Tickets are available at the door both nights. Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> is sold out! Let's sell out this production!

## Your Prayers Needed ☩

### **Mrs. Antoinette Vitez**

It is with great sadness that we share the news with you of the passing of a Gr. 7 parent. Mrs. Antoinette Vitez, mother of Peter Vitez, passed away on March 23, 2009 after a valiant battle with cancer. Please keep Peter and the Vitez family in your prayers. We were greatly honoured to be a part of the funeral service and the celebration of Antoinette's life at St. John the Divine Church on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Our Grade 7 choir sang beautifully under the direction of Mrs. Petrasianas. It was indeed a privilege for our school to be able to contribute to the liturgy for Mrs. Vitez. A mass card will be sent to the Vitez family from our school community.

### **Mrs. Shirley Fraumeni**

Mrs. Shirley Fraumeni, mother of

John and mother-in-law of Kathy Fraumeni, passed away on Saturday, March 28, 2009. Please keep the family in your prayers.

### **"Spirit" Award Winner, Hannah Gregor**

Congratulations to Hannah Gregor in Gr. 7, this year's winner of the "Celebrating the Spirit" Award of Excellence. Each year, a student from each school is chosen to receive this award. The award recognizes a Catholic student who exemplifies the qualities contained in the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations. Hannah will receive her award during Catholic Education week.

### **Catholic Education Week May 4 - 8 "Good News for All"**

Catholic Education Week in Ontario schools is an annual celebration of our faith and student learning.

We look forward to seeing many parents in our school and at the events throughout the week.

## Dinner/Dance/Auction

### **"Latin Fiesta"**

**April 25, 2009**

**Early Bird Draw** - Six tickets to the Final Concert  
Purchase your tickets to this great event and win six tickets to our final vocal and string concert on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available at school from Lorie or by calling the school at 675-4423.

This year, our event location is Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School on Sunningdale Road. Thank you to Principal Claudio China for allowing us to hold our event at the school.

### **Classroom "Theme" Baskets to be auctioned**

Please send in an item for your child's classroom baskets. Notes went home with each class last week.

### **Prizes Needed**

If you are able to donate a prize to our silent or live auction, please send it into the school. All prizes of new items and gift certificates are gratefully accepted. Request letters and thank you letters are available in the office. Get those Latin Fiesta outfits ready! Remember to bring loonies and toonies for some of fun draws. Note: Payment this year can be made with cash, debit or cheque. There is an ATM on site at Mother Teresa.

**Hand-held VISA machine**

If there is a parent with a business who owns a hand-held VISA machine, please consider allowing it to be used on the evening of our Dinner/Dance/Auction, April 25<sup>th</sup> at Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School.

You would need to operate the device yourself for parents who are paying for items. This would be an incredible donation of your time and services to our school. If you can offer this service, please call Cheryl Letheren Stranges at (519) 675-1796.

**Coffee Fundraiser**

Please continue to send in coffee orders as needed. They are ordered monthly by Marsha Haggarty. Information is available in the office.

If you think you might be able to take over the organization of this fundraiser for next year, please call the school or call Marsha Haggarty at (519) 679-6610. This has proven to be a very successful and relatively low maintenance fundraiser to our school. Thank you to Marsha for her dedication to this fundraiser.

**School Council and Committee Meetings**

School Council - April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm

Ways and Means - April 15<sup>th</sup>, time and location TBA.

**Attendance at Liturgies and Performances**

Thank you to all our families for your continued support in having students present and on time at our liturgies and performances. The school's deep commitment to the teaching of liturgical music has been a core mandate of the program since 1967 and will continue to be a focus of the music program. We are greatly appreciative of all that you and your families sacrifice in order that our students are present at these important events throughout the school year.

Thank you for helping your child with the busy school schedule and with keeping up with uniform requirements.

**Applications for Grade 5, Sept/09**

Applications have now been received. Please check with your home school to ensure that your

**Congratulations to students**

Congratulations to Gr. 8 student Cameron Patterson whose poster

child's application has been forwarded to St. Mary School. Applicants will soon be notified of audition times and dates. Applications are also provided for possible Gr. 6 entry, where an opening occurs.

**Cell Phones at School**

The school is aware that students may have cell phones with them at school for safety reasons and to be able to contact parents after school hours.

Please note that in keeping with Board Policy: during school hours (8:45-3:30), cell phones belonging to students must remain in the student's backpack. They must never be used during school hours. They are never to be loaned to another student or used on the school yard.

For safety purposes, all students are required to use our school phones when calling a parent during the school day.

Thank you for complying with these school board requirements.

**Audio Players at School - MP3**

Players and Ipods, CD Players are no longer allowed at school as part of the LDCSB policy on the use of Personal Electronic Devices.

**St. Mary School Uniform Reminders**

1. As of April 1, girls will once again wear navy knee socks. Tights are to be put away.

**2. Kilt Length**

All kilts must be knee length. Skirts that are shorter than this will need to be lengthened or replaced.

The school may have a few used kilts and sweaters for sale in June.

**Uniform Upkeep**

Parents, please assist your children in having all uniform pieces cleaned and available for the many upcoming concerts, liturgies and performances. Thank you.

**Gently Used Uniforms now available**

If your child needs a larger kilt, sweater or grey pant, we may have a size to fit. Please call the school and have a look!

**Holy Childhood Collection Boxes - Please return**

Just a reminder to students that the Holy Childhood collection boxes and money should be sent into school after Easter. Thank you to families for supporting your children in this special Lenten journey, helping children in need through Holy Childhood.

was chosen as the winning poster for this year's Mediafest with the LDCSB. Congratulations also to Vivian Tan whose prayer was

**Environment Committee**

St. Mary Choir is working hard towards achieving Green School Status, and currently we are at the Silver Level. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the school participated in its own Earth Hour between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. by shutting off unnecessary lights and computers. We are encouraging conservation of hydro and water as much as possible. On Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will celebrate Earth Day with spirit activities related to the environment. Students and families can continue to support our environmental efforts in the following ways:

- . Pack "litterless" lunches
- . Eliminate bottled water use
- . Recycle batteries\*
- . Recycle pop can tabs\*
- . Recycle print cartridges\*
- . Recycle old cell phones\*

We have established receptacles at school for the items marked with an asterisk. Many of you recycle these items at home already. We would appreciate your support in the pop can tab collection project. The National Cell Phone Collection Program is an initiative of Pitch-In Canada, and as a school community we are registered and will receive \$1.00 per old cell phone. The program accepts all Cell Phone Handsets – new, old, broken or working. These funds can then be used towards school projects. Please check around the house for old phones and check with your friends, neighbours and colleagues as well. This is a quick and easy fund-raising activity that benefits the environment at the same time. **Thank you for sending in your pop can tabs and cell phones, and we will accept your batteries and print cartridges if needed**

**Playground/Garden Committee needed for May 5<sup>th</sup> for Garden Upkeep**

On Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, we will be placing new mulch in our front and playground gardens. Please call the school if you are able to assist our Environment Committee students with this task.

**Safety Patrol Jamboree**

Joseph Perez has been selected to represent St. Mary School at the Safety Patrol Jamboree in Toronto in May. Congratulations Joseph!

selected for the Mediafest website. Well done!

**St. Mary Sports**

St. Mary's played in an elementary hockey tournament recently with student's from grade 5 and 6. The team finished with a record of 4 wins and 0 losses to finish first as division champions. The boys and girls on the team learned a great deal about sportsmanship, comradery, and strong competition. We look forward to another strong showing next year.

Mr. Chiras is appreciative of all the parent support, especially Mr. Carmine Gargarella and Mr. Dan Smith for their help on the bench. A special thanks also goes out to my Gr. 8 volunteers, Breanne Anderson, Tyler Gilles, Taylor Smith, and Ben Cookson for their refereeing and scorekeeping. Thank you boys and girls for all your hard work and let's hope for a repeat performance next year.  
Mr.  
Chiras

### **Kiwanis Festival for String**

This year, we have entered all classes in the String classes for the Kiwanis Festival.

We have provided dates and times on the April calendar for all the classes that have been confirmed. We are still awaiting confirmation of dates and times from the Festival organizers for Gr. 8 and for the

Chamber Orchestra. Thank you to Mrs. Case and Ms. Kjeldson for setting the bar for string at Kiwanis this year.

Please encourage you children to practice diligently for these upcoming classes.

### **Museum London Student Exhibit**

We would like to congratulate the following intermediate students who have their artwork in the Museum London student art exhibit entitled "People in the Picture".

Congratulations to - Emrik Burrows, Greta Countryman, Sarah Pol, Victoria Stopar, Samantha Gene and Kerri Philips

This exhibit will be on at Museum London until June 7, so we hope that you can stop by and see the wonderful work of our own St. Mary's artists!!