

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

St. Mary School, Choir and Orchestra Program

Dear Parents,

This month, we enter into the holiest of seasons, the season of Lent. As we prepare our students for Ash Wednesday on Feb. 25th, we remember that we are all asked to change our hearts. The ashes are a symbol of change and we are called to be Christ for others as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at Easter. We continue to look to the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations as a framework for learning at St. Mary School.

Kathleen Fraumeni

"Guys and Dolls Jr."

March 31 to April 3, 2009
Wolf Performance Hall
Central Library (Galleria)

St. Mary School presents "Guys and Dolls Jr." as this year's musical production. Don Fleckser is our director, Brenda Zadorsky is musical director and Mrs. Rosanna Rossi-Gioiosa is our expert choreographer. What a team of artists! Matinee tickets for visiting schools will be \$3.00 and all evening tickets are \$12.00. Our goal is to sell out all four evening performances. Advance tickets will go on sale in February. If you are able to distribute posters, please call the school. They will be available later this month.

Program Ads!!

If you or a family member or friend have a business and you are interested in purchasing advertising in our program, please contact Mrs. Fraumeni at k.fraumeni@ldcsb.on.ca. You have the option of buying a half or full page ad (colour or black & white) or you can have your company logo displayed on a board in the theatre lobby. You may wish to be a silver or gold sponsor! Be part of this spectacular event and support our production of "Guys and Dolls Jr.". Our show will attract audiences totalling over 3,000 through the run. Please send in your ad by Friday, March 13th, 2009.

Family Day Holiday Monday, Feb. 16th

There are no classes that day.

Full performance uniforms are

School Council and Committee Meetings

All meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. Please call the school if you are unable to attend any of these meetings.

School Council - Thurs., Feb. 26

Ways and Means Committee - Wed., Feb. 11

Ways and Means Dinner, Dance, Auction

Saturday, April 25, 2009, 6:30 pm

Mother Teresa

Catholic High School

Donated Prizes are needed!

Our fundraising committee is working hard to plan this year's dinner, dance, auction event. This is a very enjoyable and well attended event each year that has fast become a major fundraiser for the Choir and Orchestra Program.

Please look at donating a prize to our silent auction or perhaps asking a retailer for a donation to the event. Official "prize request" letters and "thank you" letters are available in the office. If you are unable to donate a prize or attend, please consider a donation to this major fundraising event. Since we no longer have Bingo funds, our school depends on this fundraiser to support our program.

More information about donations and tickets will be available in the coming weeks.

Thank you to the Ways and Means Committee and to Chair Cheryl Letheren-Stranges for their very fine work.

This year's theme is "Latin Fiesta". Please note that any donated items less than \$10.00 in value may be grouped with other items for the purpose of the silent auction. required.

Application for St. Mary School 09/10

Application brochures have been sent to all schools in the London District Catholic School Board for all Grade 4 students. If you have a child in Grade 4 who wishes to apply for September 2009, please contact your home school for a brochure **or** go onto the board website at www.ldcsb.on.ca click on "Schools" and then on "St. Mary Choir". You can print our brochure from the St. Mary School web page. Auditions will be held in late April.

Procedure for picking up your child

Just a reminder that parents are asked to come into the school to the office whenever you are picking up your child early from school. This procedure is in place for your children's safety so that teachers and office staff are aware of the time the child has been picked up by a parent or designated adult. Thank you for informing your child's teacher in writing of appointments or reasons for your child to be picked up early.

Holy Childhood Lenten Collections

Our students will bring home a small collection box during Lent. We encourage families to help collect coins that will be collected at the end of Lent and will go to support Holy Childhood, the international Catholic mission whose motto is "Children Helping Children".

Ash Wednesday School Mass, noon on Feb. 25th, 2009

All students in grades 5 to 8 will attend the Ash Wednesday Mass at 12:00 noon on Feb. 25th at St. Mary's Church. Hot Lunch will be served at school

at 1:15. Please send your child with a healthy snack for morning recess that day.

A reminder that our hot lunch is meatless for Ash Wednesday.

The Sacrament of Confirmation for Gr. 8's

This is a reminder that all students scheduled to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year **need to register in their home parish**. Each parish organizes its own classes in preparation for receiving this sacrament and its own retreat days for students. Our Gr. 8 religion program addresses the importance of Confirmation throughout the year and some classroom time is dedicated toward preparation for confirmation. The classes at the parish level are extremely important.

Please be sure to register your child in your home parish for Confirmation.

Cold Weather Alerts

Our practice is to bring students inside at 8:25 a.m. if a cold weather alert has been issued and to allow for shortened recesses throughout the day. Please keep in mind that the students do benefit from some time outdoors for a few minutes of fresh air. Thank you for sending them to school appropriately clothed for a Canadian winter! On uniform days, girls may wear navy or black slush /snow pants over their tights for outdoor time.

Grade 8 Graduation Tues., June 23rd

Please mark June 23rd in your calendars for Grade 8 Graduation, 2009.

As you begin thinking about apparel for this occasion, please remember that girls need to dress appropriately for the graduation mass. A shawl or jacket is required so that shoulders are not bare. Consider "Sunday best" when shopping for boys. Please note that our graduation guidelines for the London District Catholic School Board discourage boys from wearing tuxedos for this occasion.

As always, the celebration of the Eucharist continues to be the focal point of graduation for our Grade 8

students and staff.

Cinnabon Fundraiser for February

Please consider purchasing a certificate for a nine pack of mini-cinnabons for only \$12.00. If you did not pay the flat fee for fundraising, we are looking to every family to purchase at least two gift certificates before February 13th. The flyer went home in late January. Please call the school if you need more information.

Coffee Fundraiser Reminder

Please remember to send in any new coffee orders to school. Marsha Haggarty will continue to send in the bulk order on behalf of all parents. Order forms are available at school or online.

Prayers of Remembrance

Please keep the Hebert family in your prayers. We remember Alex Hebert, son of Barb and Paul and former student of the St. Mary/CCH program. Alex passed away on January 19, 2009.

We ask for your prayers in remembering Mr. Rene Gelinis, father of Mrs. Michelle Butters. Mr. Gelinis passed away January 31, 2009.

Happy Birthday, Father Cassano

We wish Father Cassano a very happy 80th birthday, celebrated on January 31, 2009. Health and happiness and God's blessing for many years to come, Father Henry!

Guest Artists here from the Canadian Opera Company

Thank you to all parents and staff who assisted in hosting three guest artists here at St. Mary School from the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto.

The artists, who are part of the COC's outreach program "Create an Opera" came to our school to assist students in preparing for our Grade 5 opera "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs .. Go to the Opera". The artists and their roles were:

Christopher Wilson - director - worked with children to enhance their characters.

Andy Miller - designer - worked with Grade 5's to create the stage

backdrop and individual opera masks.

Andrew Chung - violinist with COC orchestra - worked with our Gr. 8 opera orchestra players in a Masters Class setting.

This was a very successful partnership with COC and St. Mary School, and extremely beneficial to all students and staff.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs ... Go to the Opera"

Tickets available \$7.00

Tickets are still available for our evening shows. Order forms have gone out to all students.

Wed., Feb. 18th, 7:00 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Parents of Gr. 5 students who still wish to place a "Break a Leg" congratulation message in the program, can do so until Wed., Feb. 4th. Please send all messages by e-mail to k.fraumeni@ldcsb.on.ca.

Website Updates

Please visit our school website www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/malo/index.html to read our newsletter on-line. See update photos of school events and enjoy pictures in the archives.

Hot Lunch Program

There will be one more round of hot lunches after the present round, taking us into late April. We are revisiting the menus and the prices to ensure that the hot lunch program continues to meet your child's nutritional needs and that it turns a profit as one of our ongoing fundraisers for the Choir and Orchestra program. Traditionally the Hot Lunch Program has significantly contributed to the School Council budget for fundraising. Thank you to Michelle Pian, to Lorie and their teams for their never-ending dedication to the fundraiser.

Winterfest for Students, Feb. 24th

Winterfest will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 24th in the afternoon at school for all grades, 5 to 8.

Thank you to our Spirit Committee
and our Arts and Culture
Committee for organizing.
A special thanks to Mme.
Farquhar, Mlle. Nagyszegi and

Ms. Kjeldson for overseeing this
great event.

Watch for more information to come
home about appropriate clothing!! It
is winter and it is "Canada".