

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

St. Mary School, Choir and Orchestra Program

“Giving Back through Time and Talent”

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed welcoming your children back to school and learning all about their summer adventures! We are now well into our programming for the new school year and delighted at the level of enthusiasm for learning that we see in your children!

It was very nice seeing so many families attend our Welcome Back social in September. Thank you Cheryl Letheren Stranges, Lorie Goodner and the volunteer team for a great evening.

October is the month dedicated to the Rosary. We will share in praying the rosary at school and continue to provide a better understanding of this beautiful prayer to our Blessed Mother, Mary. Best wishes to you and your families as you celebrate together at Thanksgiving.

*God our Father, source of truth and light, we give you thanks
and praise always for the many talents that you have given to us.*

Amen

*Sincerely,
Kathleen Fraumeni, Principal*

Cross Country Meet, at RMC

All students, grades 5 to 8 will attend the Cross Country Meet on Tues., October 6th.

This is an excellent event that promotes physical activity for all students. Our students trained very hard! Thank you to our staff members, Mrs. McNerney and Miss Gosso, for preparing our students.

Thank you for encouraging your children to be active participants in this physical education activity. Please be sure your children dress for the weather.

School Council 09/10

In keeping with the regulations of provincial policy, St. Mary School now has the “core” members of our School Council in place. Since no more than six names were nominated for these positions, a school-wide election was not needed.

The first meeting of our new School Council will take place on Wed., Oct. 7th at 6:00 p.m. At that time, a chair will be appointed. All committee chairs are welcome to attend as are any parents in our school community.

This meeting will be brief and will precede “Curriculum Night” for parents in the gym. Thank you to all those who have offered to serve on this year’s council.

Curriculum Night for Parents - Wed., Oct. 7th, 7:00 p.m., Gym

Curriculum Night is an opportunity to gather as a school community, meet your child’s teachers and receive current and helpful information about our arts enriched curriculum at St. Mary School. A note has gone home to ask that you inform us of your attendance. Thank you to all who attended and to our new School Council members for 2008-09.

School Council Committee Meetings and Information

1. Safe Schools

Our first meeting will be held on Tues., Oct. 20th at 7:00 pm in the library

2. School Improvement

A package will be sent home to committee members to review. Our first meeting will be Tues., Oct. 20th, at 7:00 pm in the library.

3. Ways and Means Meeting

The next meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be held Wed., Oct. 14th, 7:00 pm in the library. Thank you to all those who signed on as members of this committee.

If you wish to be a member of a committee but have not yet sent in your Parent Volunteer form, please plan on attending the meeting. Thank you to Joanne Murphy and Carla Zubot who are chairing this year’s committee.

“Welcome Back” a Success!

Once again, our “Welcome Back” night for St. Mary School families was a great success.

Thank you to all the organizers, parent volunteers and to all those who made it a success. A special thanks to Cheryl Letheren Stranges who organized the event and to Lorie Goodner for her tremendous support.

Uniform Update

By now, all students should have all pieces to the St. Mary School uniform including any back-ordered pieces.

Please note that **navy blue knee socks** are mandatory for all girls and **grey socks** are mandatory for all boys. Those who are not in full uniform will not be able to attend events.

London Knights

Our students will be singing the National Anthem at the London Knights game of Thursday, January 21, 2010. We will provide more information closer to the date about this exciting event for our school. Last year we had over 500 students, parents and family members attend! Once again, all our students will appear on the jumbotron singing the national anthem! We have been given 500 tickets again this year to sell to our school community at \$12.00 each. Order forms will go out in time for Christmas. A great gift!!

Parent Volunteer Forms

Thank you for an overwhelming response to our call for committee members in our various standing committees.

All volunteers have been informed about their committee. If you did not receive confirmation, please call the school at 675-4423.

Thanksgiving Mass

We will celebrate our Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday, Oct. 8th at 9:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Church.

All students are expected to wear their **FULL PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS**.

Students should be arriving at school in uniform and leaving school in uniform on any of our designated uniform days. Thank you for your assistance with this. All uniforms are available at R. J. McCarthy's.

We are now collecting canned goods and non-perishable items as an offering for our mass. All goods will be donated to the St. Mary's Church - St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Visits to the Food Bank

Thank you to our teachers for organizing individual class visits to the Food Bank. These class visits are extremely important to us in that they provide an opportunity for our students to reach out to those in need and to take part in a valuable task while they are there.

Return of Forms and Fees. Thank you!

We are very grateful for the tremendous support you have shown in helping your children return those many essential information and medical forms. It is a daunting task in those early days of September, but so important for the collection of information and delivery of programs.

Please note that the school must have two separate bank accounts:

1. **St. Mary School**
2. **St. Mary Catholic School Council**

We will continue to clarify to which accounts various cheques are to be directed. Thank you for your continued assistance in this matter.

Fundraising - "Flat Fee"

Thank you for reviewing the fundraising letter. If you would like to pay the "Flat Fee" of \$105.00 per child, please send it to school made payable to **St. Mary Catholic School Council**. This information is important for organizing our fundraisers.

Picking up your Child

This is a reminder that all students must have a note signed from a parent if they are being picked up during the day.

Parents are asked to report to the office before picking up a child.

This insures that the child has left the school as indicated by the note.

The Sacrament of Confirmation for 2009-2010

This is a reminder that preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place at the parish level. Dates are set at various times throughout the year. Please be sure that you have been informed of your parish's date for Confirmation so that your child can take part in the many fine programs and discussion groups provided by your parish. St. Mary School Grade 8 teachers will continue, as always, to teach the Confirmation component in the Grade 8 religion program. Thank you for ensuring that your child is registered for Confirmation **in your home parish**.

Terry Fox Run - What a Day!

Thank you to all those who made pledges to our runners and volunteers who made this school-wide event such a success.

Thank you to Mrs. McInerney for organizing this year's school run. Great job everyone! We hope to meet our goal of \$2,000 for Cancer Research.

Dental Screening for Gr. 8

Please remember to call the school if you do **not** wish your child to take part in any dental screening this year. Dental screening for Gr. 8 students will take place on Nov. 12th at 1:00 p.m.

"Sound of Music"

Oct. 28th

We are looking forward to a great day in Toronto! Please note that the tickets have been purchased and all fees of \$55.00/student should now be in. Thank you for paying this fee, if you have not yet done so. This fee also covers the cost of the bus for your child.

Upcoming Concerts

1. **Orchestra London Christmas Pops Concert and St. Mary School Gr. 6 students. Dec. 4 and Dec. 6 – SAVE THESE DATES**

The Gr. 6 St. Mary School Choir will be performing in concert with Orchestra London. This is a Christmas Pops concert and will be performed Friday, December 4th in Chatham, Ontario and December 6th, at London's Centennial Hall.

More details about these concerts will follow. Please reserve both those dates for Gr. 6 students as their attendance is mandatory. Thank you for your support.

2. **Christmas Celebration – Gerald Fagan Centennial Hall**

Please note that the St. Mary Intermediate Choir will be featured at Centennial Hall on Nov. 27th with Gerald Fagan and Fanshawe Chorus London.

St. Mary School would like to provide information to parents about a variety of concert opportunities you may wish to share with your children. If you know of an upcoming concert, please call the school at 675-4423 with information about dates, times and tickets.

St. Mary Safety Patrol Team

Street Patrollers

1. Lucas Beaton
2. Jeff Liebusch
3. Michael Theriault
4. Liam Miller
5. Matthew Barker

Bus Patrollers

1. Shauna Vink
2. Cassidy Mitchell

Thank you to all our students who have stepped forward to take a leadership role as safety patrollers. Thank you to Mrs. Garcia for overseeing our Patrol team once again this year.

Student Drop-off in the morning

Please look for the sign on the Lyle Street post that indicates the car drop-off area. Thank you for pulling up to that sign so that buses can safely pull in behind you and drop off children.

Also, when dropping your child off from the church driveway entrance, please do not drive onto the playground as our students are engaged in running and play activities.

Halloween Dance-a-thon, Oct. 30th



The Ways and Means Committee will host this year's Halloween Dance-a-thon as a fundraiser for the school.

The event will take place on Friday, Oct. 30th in the afternoon in our school gym. A pledge form and letter will come home in the days ahead. Those who have paid the "Flat Fee" of \$105.00 are not obliged to send in the minimum pledge of \$5.00. All other students are expected to pledge *at least* \$5.00 or as much as friends and relatives are able to sponsor!

Coffee Fundraiser

This year, the Ways and Means committee will be selling coffee throughout the year. You will hear more about this great fundraiser later in October. Last year, the coffee sales raised over \$1,000.

BiOlympics - 1st Place!

Congratulations to the St. Mary Choir "Diploid" team who won the student BiOlympics challenge at Centennial Hall on September 25th, 2009. Emma Flegel, Ryan Gillies, Lexi Gillooly, Lukasz Nowakowski, and Peter Vitez represented our school in a competition against 20 other school teams and were involved in activities like creating stretchy slime, an amoeba maze race, translating DNA codes, constructing a human skeleton

from a bag of bones, and working with a laparoscopic surgery simulator. St. Mary Choir won this event last year as well, and we are proud that this year's amazing team was able to defend this honour! Special thanks to Mr. John Vitez who chaperoned the students at this event.

Hot Lunch Helpers Needed

Students at St. Mary School enjoy the weekly hot lunch program and you might enjoy sharing about two hours of your time each month to help with this popular fundraiser. Please contact Michelle Pian at 641-0246 or see Lorie Goodner if you are interested in helping. Many hands make light work! Thank you.

Michelle Pian
Hot Lunch Co-ordinator

Exciting New Canabear" Fundraiser

St. Mary School Mascot "Beanie Bear"
This year, the Ways and Means Committee will have St. Mary School bears for sale in November. Loveable and unique! Great Christmas gift for only \$12.00. Watch for this great offer!
More details to follow.

From the Student's Corner

St. Mary School