

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## St. Mary School, Choir and Orchestra Program

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*"Give alms ... Pray to your Father ... Fast without a gloomy face ..."*

~ Matthew 6:1-18

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on February 17 with the imposition of ashes. Receiving ashes is an ancient symbol of penance common in the Old Testament. Lent is a time of penance, and as part of this penance Jesus calls us to give, pray and fast. May I offer some reflections on these.

Giving alms means making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world. They are all around us: children and the old, the sick and the suffering, families and individuals, next-door neighbours and people in lands far away. We can easily forget them. Rather than just looking out for ourselves, we are asked by Jesus to see those in need. This can take many forms: time, talents, material resources. Whatever we give, though, should be something of ourselves. When we give, we receive some blessing from God in return.

The Lenten season calls us to pray. However, prayer is more than saying words. Jesus says, "Go into your room, and close the door, and pray to your Father in secret." Therefore, before we pray, we need to enter the inner room of our hearts and put aside all of the noise and other things which seem to constantly grab for our attention. Once we have found this quiet place of our hearts, we can then speak with God who listens and knows what we need. Some forms of prayer include: reflective reading of the Bible or other spiritual books, the celebration of the Eucharist (our highest form of prayer) and other sacraments, and simple prayers, like the Our Father or the Rosary. What is most important is that we set some time aside each day for quiet prayer.

Our world today has made fasting unfashionable. Today's consumer society looks on fasting as gloomy, as we are urged to eat, drink and buy more and more. The Gospel message tells us that more and more can ruin us, as it leads us to becoming selfish. By recognizing the hold things have on us, we can keep them in their proper place. As the resources of our planet are increasingly threatened, it becomes clear that the human family, especially those living in affluent nations, can no longer be unlimited consumers. We must develop a leaner, less wasteful way of life, if our planet is to survive.

May this Lenten season provide us with opportunities to practice almsgiving, deepened prayer and fasting. God Bless!

*Ginette Marrinan*

## Celebrating Our Catholicity

### ASH WEDNESDAY SCHOOL MASS, NOON ON FEB. 17<sup>TH</sup>

All students in grades 5 to 8 will attend the Ash Wednesday Mass at 12:00 noon on Feb. 17th at St. Mary's Church. **Full performance uniforms** are required.

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.

### 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".

### 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.

### GRADE 8 GRADUATION THURS., JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>



Please mark June 24th in your calendars for Grade 8 Graduation, 2010.

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.

### HAITI FUNDRAISING

On Thursday, January 28, staff and students participated in "Stretch the Rules" day as a means of raising funds to support the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The class who raised the most money won the opportunity

to pie Mr. Chiras in the face. Our school goal was to raise \$750.00. Thanks to generous donations, we were able to raise approx. \$1,500!!!! WAY TO GO ST. MARY!!!!

## What's happening at St. Mary's?



### JOHN LABATT CENTRE

Congratulations to our students who participated in singing the national Anthem at the JLC on Thursday, January 21! Thank you to Mrs. Petrasiunas for all of her hard work in preparing our students! Thank you to family members and friends who showed their support by their attendance at the game!

### "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR"

April 13 to 16, 2010  
Wolf Performance Hall  
Central Library (Galleria)



St. Mary School presents "Beauty and the Beast Jr." as this year's musical production. Don Fleckser is our director, Mrs. Chris Petrasiunas is musical director and Mrs. Rosanna Rossi-Gioiosa is our expert choreographer. 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 Joan Fernandez at joan.k.fernandez@ca.ey.com 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 "Beauty and the Beast Jr.". Our show will attract audiences totalling over 3,000 through the run. Please send in your ad by Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### "DIRTY DOG BOOGIE"

Our Gr. 5 integrated arts project "*Dirty Dog Boogie*" is underway. There will be a matinee performance and an evening performance on Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow regarding numbers for attendance at both performances.

### HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

*From Michelle Pian, Hot Lunch Coordinator:*

Thanks to parents for your continued support of the Hot Lunch program. While we did have to increase the price to \$5 we hope you're pleased with the added variety and choices available. A reminder though, to please circle the meal choice on the hot lunch form. Many forms were returned with no choice made, so we had to make default choices for your child. Teachers have their class order list available so please have your child double check their orders as soon as possible in class to know what they will be served on hot lunch day.

The final session order forms will be coming home with students in early March, so be ready for more exciting Hot Lunch dates!

### YOUNG GUEST ARTIST SERIES

On Friday, January 29, 2010, St. Mary's very own Celine Murray entertained staff and students, along with Denise Flack as part of our Young Guest Artist series. Denise is a Leahy, of the infamous Leahy step and fiddle family. We are certainly blessed to be able to host and enjoy such a high calibre of performances!

## CREATIVE COMMUNIATION POETRY

Congratulations to the following students in Mrs. Garcia's class whose poems were submitted and have been accepted for publication: Laura A., Payton C., Madison G., Rachel H., Dean H., Allie J., Haley K., Michael M., Maggie M., Jenine O., Emily P., Brytni R., Philip S., Antonina S., Maddie T., Michael T., Christine T., Rose V., and Andrew W. As well, St. Mary School received a Poetic Achievement Award. This award is given to schools whose students' entries to the Poetry Contest were of exceptionally high merit. Congratulations to all of our recipients and to Mrs. Garcia!

## APPLICATION FOR ST. MARY 2010-11

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 2010, please contact your home school for a brochure **or** go onto the board website at [www.ldcsb.on.ca](http://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.

## PROCEDURES FOR PICKING UP YOUR CHILD

Just a reminder that parents are to send a note to the Office and their

child's homeroom teacher if they are going to be picking their child up early or if there is a change from the regular way that their child will be going home that day. As well, if your child is on a school bus, we would ask that you contact the bus company to let them know if your child will not be riding the bus to and/or from school that day. Parents who pick up their child at the end of the day are asked to use the school/Church parking area and **NOT** the lot across the street as this poses a serious safety hazard. We have stopped students from crossing in between the buses to get across to the parking lot this week and would not want any of our students to be injured. Thank you for your support and cooperation in this matter.

## Parent Information

### FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY Monday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>

There are no classes that day.

### 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

-Wed., March 31st

#### Ways and Means Committee

– Tues., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>

### WAYS AND MEANS DINNER/DANCE /AUCTION

will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 6:30pm – midnight at Holy Family Church Hall.

All proceeds will support the Choir and Orchestra program and ticket order forms will be available in March. We encourage all parents and their friends to attend this fun and very affordable event. Please consider donating a prize to our silent auction or perhaps asking a retailer for a donation. Official 'donation request' letters and 'thank you' letters are available in the office. This year's event theme is '**Canadian, eh?**' Come out, wear something Canadian (ie. red & white) and have fun. More

details will follow in the coming weeks. 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. The Dinner/Dance /Auction is our major fundraiser of the year and we are counting on involvement from all parents to make the event a success!

Thank you to the *Ways and Means Committee* and to Co-Chairs Joanne Murphy and Carla Zubot for their very fine work.



### 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.

### Coffee Fundraiser Reminder



Please remember to send in any new coffee orders to school. Stephen Paul and Som

Pravongviengkham will continue to send in the bulk order on behalf of all parents. Order forms are available at school or online at [www.pistolandbarnes.com](http://www.pistolandbarnes.com)

### Website Updates

Please visit our school website [www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/malo/index.html](http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/malo/index.html) to read our newsletter on-line. See updated photos of school events and enjoy pictures in the archives.

### LIMITED EDITION KEEPSAKE BEANIE BEARS

The St. Mary School *Ways and Means Committee* still have some of the Keepsake Beanie Bears available for purchase. If you missed out on the opportunity to purchase a bear before Christmas, or you would like to purchase some additional bears, you can still get them at the same cost of \$12.00/ bear.