

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

St. Mary School, Choir and Orchestra Program

Happy New Year! Welcome Back! I hope that the Christmas holidays have provided all of our families at St. Mary with the opportunity for some quality family time, as well as time for rest and relaxation.

I am very pleased to formally introduce myself as the new Principal of St. Mary Catholic School, Choir and Orchestra Program. I am a former graduate of the Choir and Orchestra Program, having attended the school when it was located at St. Peter Catholic School, next to the Basilica. I graduated from the U.W.O. Faculty of Music and began my teaching career as an itinerant music teacher in our system. I have been with the London District Catholic School Board since 1985. This is my 8th year in administration. I have previously worked as Vice Principal at Blessed Kateri Catholic School, as Vice Principal and Principal at Monsignor Morrison Catholic School in St. Thomas, and most recently as Principal at St. George Catholic School.

It is both an honour and a privilege for me to have the opportunity to lead the St. Mary School Community! I have felt very welcomed by the staff and students and those parents whom I have met to date! It is wonderful to feel the enthusiasm and vitality within the building and to hear the beautiful sound of music down the hallways!

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone better over the next few months. My door is always open, so please pop in and say hi when you are in the building!

January promises to be the beginning of a very busy and exciting 2010 for students and staff! As we enter into the business of this time, let us remember to keep in mind our call to be God's light to others:

*"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit,
to feed the hungry,
to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart . . .
And to radiate the Light of Christ, everyday, in every way, in all that we do
and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins."*

~ Howard Thurman, adapted

God Bless,

Ginette Marrinan

Hot Lunch News

The December 17th turkey hot lunch was once again a wonderful success story. Many, many volunteers gave of their time and resources to serve up delicious turkey and trimmings to students and staff at St. Mary's School and Church. Special thanks for large donations go to John and Betty Anne Flaherty (turkeys), Colleen Hanycz (potatoes), Rudy and Florence Heeman (corn), Barb Firth (gravy). Also, many parents gave generous cash donations to offset the considerable costs of this annual celebration. Thank you to everyone for your generosity in everything from butter to napkins to cookies! It's an honour and a joy to celebrate Christmas as a community in this way each year.

Michelle Pian,
Hot Lunch Coordinator

Christmas Concert CD

Thank you to Gil Brodie for once again making a very fine recording of our Christmas Concert. Mr. Brodie provided us with an opportunity to share the beautiful sounds of song and strings with our family and friends over the holidays. Once again this year, the recording was excellent.

Christmas Tree Raffle 2009 Winners ...

1st Prize - prelit, fully decorated Christmas Tree - Dina Cimino
2nd Prize - Christmas Wreath - Tanner Wheatley
3rd Prize - Front row concert tickets - Ken M.
Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who helped to promote this important annual fundraising event with special thanks to Joanne Murphy and Carla Zubot for helping with this year's raffle.

**Monday, Feb. 15, 2010,
is a School Holiday as
the province of Ontario
celebrates Family Day**

**London Knights vs
Kitchener Rangers
Thurs., Jan. 21, 2010
at 7:00 p.m.**

**John Labatt Centre,
St. Mary's to sing "O Canada"
live on the ice...**

Be part of the excitement and join us at the JLC for the London Knight's game January 21, 2010. Tickets are still available for \$13.00 each (a savings of up to \$3.00).

Come and see your child sing our national anthem! Students will be escorted to their seats after singing.

This is officially a No Homework night at St. Mary School. How fun is that!!

This is an event promoted by your Ways and Means committee but it is not a fundraiser.

Please note: It is essential that every student who attends be accompanied by an adult as staff will not be supervising students.

Several staff members will be attending but not to supervise in the stands during the game.

Thank you for making arrangements to have an adult attend with your child.

Dress Code for the London Knights Game for St. Mary's students:

White uniform shirt

Blue uniform sweater

Blue jeans (or dark pants)

No ties, kilts or grey pants are required.

School Council and Committee Meetings

School Council – Wed. Jan.

20th 7:00 p.m., Library

Ways & Means Social - Wed., Jan. 13th, 7:00 p.m., Library

CCH Information Night for Gr. 8 Parents

Thurs., January 28, 7:00 p.m.

CCH is holding an information night for all Gr. 8 parents who have children attending Gr. 9 in Sept. 2010. The meeting will be held in the CCH gym. Information will be provided about programs for Gr. 9 including the Music Extension program and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

Plans in the Works for “Beauty and the Beast Jr.”



Grade 8 parents are invited to attend a meeting to hear the details about our upcoming production.

The meeting will be Wed., Jan. 14th, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the gym.

We will be informing parents of our production and rehearsal schedules as well as recruiting volunteers. Calling all painters, sewers and carpenters!

Production week is April 12 to April 16, 2010 at the Wolf Performance Hall (Central Library). Don

Fleckser is directing with musical director Christine Petrasianas.

Rosanna Rossi-Gioiosa is our choreographer.

Parent Night for Gr. 8 Parents “Beauty and the Beast Jr.”

We look forward to seeing all Gr. 8 parents on Wednesday, Jan. 14th at 7:00 in the gym. We would like to get a head start on plans for sets and costumes and all other areas where volunteers will be needed for the show. See you on Jan. 14th, 2010.

Gr. 5 Arts Integrated Project

“Dirty Dog Boogie”

Our Grade 5 students will be involved in working with the poetry of Canadian poet Lorie Lesynski in preparing for a performance of poetry, drama, music and dance called “Dirty Dog Boogie”.

Our performances will take place during the day and on the evening of Wednesday, March 10, 2010** Please reserve this date on your calendar!

**Note: Please note a change in the performance date due to a conflict with the original date of Feb. 17th, which is Ash Wednesday.

Liturgy Cancelled

The liturgy that was scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 31st at St. Peter's has been cancelled due to a conflict with Confirmation in another parish.

Save the Date

Graduation, June 24, 2010

St. Mary School Grade 8

Graduation is Tuesday, June 24, 2010 at 6:00 pm at St. Mary's Church.

More details will follow in coming weeks and months.

A reminder - London Transit Tripper Bus is once again transporting students from the school to the corner of Dundas & Richmond