

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

St. Mary School, Choir and Orchestra Program



Spring is just around the corner and with the change of seasons we will begin to see some signs of new life and hope! The word "Lent" literally means "Spring". This is a time to prepare for Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. We should not be spectators but rather, active participants in the process! During the upcoming month, we continue our journey through Lent. This is a time for us to reflect and ponder on our relationship with God, with ourselves and with others through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

March Break will soon be here and will provide an opportunity for us to pause and catch our breath. Our world has become a very busy place and striking a balance between work, school and family time is important. Building our relationship with God is intricately connected to building our relationships with others - at home and at work or school. I hope that this break will be a time for you to spend together as a family, to enjoy each other's company, and to pause and re-connect.

During this time of rejuvenation, I pray that you will feel God's presence around you, that you will experience His rays of hope, and that you will continue to see the new beginnings of Spring life!

God bless,

Ginette Marrinan

Celebrating Our Catholicity

Lent



We began our Lenten journey with the celebration of Ash Wednesday on February 18. Traditionally in the Church, Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Prayer means more time for God and with God and can take many forms: going to Mass, being quiet before God, perhaps reading the Scriptures or some other book that helps us to know God better. **At St. Mary, we continue the practice of taking students each Monday to the Chapel of Adoration to pray the Rosary and/or the Stations of the Cross during Lent.** We thank Madame Farquhar who volunteers each week to lead our students in prayer!

Fasting can take other forms than doing without food and drink. We can fast from TV, from being curious in a harmful way, from gossip, impatience and so on. By fasting, we become detached from these things and allow our hearts to be more fully open to God and His will for us.

Almsgiving reminds us of those who are not as fortunate to have the material items that we enjoy. Almsgiving can also extend beyond giving to charity. There are other things it may cost us to give: time to listen, time to visit, time to send a friendly note.

Our students continue to collect for the **Holy Childhood Association**. Lent provides an opportunity for us to review these aspects of our lives and reflect on how we can improve ourselves in these areas. It is a kind of spring cleaning of the heart and a fresh start on our journey to God!

Stations of the Cross



On Thursday, April 1, our school community will gather together to pray the Stations of the Cross. The students will put together a beautiful reflection of the suffering and death of Jesus from the perspective of his mother, Mary.

During this time, our gymnasium will become a sacred place and a way for our school community to prepare for the Resurrection of the Lord. All parents are welcome to join us!

Holy Childhood Boxes, A Lenten Offering

Collection boxes went home with every child for Holy Childhood.

This international organization is strongly supported by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict, and our Catholic Schools. Their motto is "Children Helping Children". We have asked each student to make an effort throughout Lent to support this very worthy cause. Boxes will be returned to school after Easter. Perhaps you could make the collection a family project for Lent.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

MAY 2, – MAY 7, 2010

“Rejoicing in Hope”

Each year the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week.

This year’s celebration, entitled “*Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope*”, is scheduled for the week of May 2 – May 7. The scriptural theme is “*Rejoice in the Lord always ... and the God of peace will be with you*” taken from St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians. When there is so much in the media that teaches despair and gloom, we reflect on the Gospel message of joyous hope. It is this Hope that can sustain us through our trials and tribulations!

What’s happening at St. Mary’s?

“BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR”

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



Tickets are now on sale at the school. (Friday night is almost sold out!)

This show is for everyone, not just our Grade 8 families. Make it a family event!

“Beauty and the Beast Jr.” Business Ads needed from parents, Gr. 5 - 8

If you have a business or know of someone who does and would like to purchase an ad for the “Beauty and the Beast Jr.” program, please call the school (675-4423).

Full Page (7" x 8 1/2") \$100.00

½ page - \$75.00

Personal Message to a student - \$15.00

We are producing a very attractive, professionally printed program that will reach over 3,000 theatre goers through the run of the play. These charges for ads offset our costs to produce the program. The dead line for the printer is March 15th. Please call 675-4423 for information.

REPORT CARDS!



Term 2 report cards will be sent home with each child on

Wednesday, March 24.

Parents/ Guardians are asked to please return the Response Form with the report card envelope. The evening of **Tuesday, March 30** has been set aside for Parent-Teacher Conferences from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. The term 2 Conference is generally reserved for those parents with immediate concerns regarding their child’s progress. Teachers are happy to answer general inquiries by telephone or at another mutually agreed upon time.

Sports



Girls Basketball Team

Wow!! What a season!! The St. Mary girls’ basketball team finished an incredible season ending up with an accumulated record of 25 wins and 6 losses (including regular season, playoffs, and tournament play). Although it wasn’t a perfect end to a successful season, the girls had proven that their hard work, dedication, and teamwork had payed off as they built a wonderful season of memories. Mr. Chiras would like to extend a big thank

you to all the parent volunteers and student referees. I would like to also add how appreciative I am of all the girls’ effort! Thank you girls for all your hard work and dedication. You truly made it a memorable year!

Mr. Chiras

Boys Basketball Team

The intermediate boy’s basketball team has had a very successful 2010 season. We finished the regular season in third place with five wins and three losses. In the first round of playoffs we played St. Pat’s from Lucan and won so we will advance to the second round of playoffs on Monday, March 1st. One of the highlights of the season was playing in the St. Martin tournament where we finished second, losing out on a last second buzzer beater. The boys have shown great sportsmanship throughout the whole season. A special thank you goes out to our volunteer coaches, Corbin Boniferro and James LaRocque. The members of the team are: Marc Resendes, Andrew Theriault, Justin Paro, Marcello Vecchio, Patrick McMillian, Thomas Miller, Digby Dobransky, Sam Cookson and Michael Theriault. Way to go boys!!

Mrs. Hunter

Thank you to Mr. Chiras and Mrs. Hunter for all of their time and dedication given to coaching our Basketball teams! We appreciate their efforts for the benefit of our students.

Application for St. Mary School 2010-2011

If you wish to have a child apply for Grade 5 for September, 2010, please contact your home school for an application brochure. You can also call our school at 675-4423 or go to our school web page at

www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/malo/index.html to download a brochure.

Note: Please return the completed application form to your home school principal. Applications will then be forwarded to us.

Grade 8 Graduation Thurs., June 24, 2010

If you are a Grade 7 parent who would like to help head up this year's graduation committee, please call the school at 675-4423.

This committee will begin its work in mid-April.

Graduation Photos - TBA

"DIRTY DOG BOOGIE" Wednesday, March 10th

Our Gr. 5 integrated arts project "Dirty Dog Boogie" is well underway. There will be a matinee performance at 1:00 p.m. and an evening performance at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10th. We look forward to our Grade 5 presentation of their integrated arts project.



Parent Information

YOUNG GUEST ARTIST SERIES



Congratulations to Celine Murray for her outstanding performance in the "Young Guest Artists" series! Celine played to a full house during a Friday lunch hour last month and "WOW"ed our students with her fiddling!



Murray for her outstanding performance in the "Young

School Council Meeting

March 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library

Ways and Means Meeting

March 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library

Ways and Means Dinner/

Dance/Auction

Saturday, April 24, 2010

This year's theme is 'Canadian, eh?'

Tickets are limited for this very popular annual fundraising event. The cost is \$25.00 per person, which includes a fantastic themed dinner, door prizes, DJ, dancing and much more! Ticket order forms will go home after the March break. For those who did not pay the flat fee, you will be receiving a request for ticket payment or donation (if you are unable to attend).

Order your tickets before March 31st and you will be entered in a

draw to win 6 front row seats at the final concert in June! If you would like to assist with the collection of prizes, please call the school. Letters are available in the office when requesting items from merchants. Please consider donating an item for the silent auction. Any new item or gift certificate you wish to donate would be most appreciated! Just a reminder, this is an adult-only event!

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, April 24th

Reminder for Parent Police Background Checks

In preparation for end of year class trips, chaperones must have a current police check on file at the school. Please call the school at (519) 675-4423 if you require the form.



County Bus Riders ... A few reminders

Just a few friendly reminders for our county students:

1. If you know your child will not be on the bus for some reason at the end of the day, please provide your driver with a parent note indicating that.
2. Students who are non-county bus students cannot ride on country buses at any time.

South London Baseball Registration

MARCH 6th, 2010 (10:00am - 2:00pm) @

South London Community Pool - Main Lobby

Or

Online TODAY (Until April 10th, 2010)

www.southlondonbaseballassociation.com

Information or inquires see our website or call 519-681-3336.