

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

St. Mary School, Choir and Orchestra Program

“Giving Back through Time and Talent”

Dear Parents,

November is a month of remembrance. In our parishes, we acknowledge those who have died and we remember them in our prayers. We also take time to remember the sacrifice of so many Canadians over the decades who have given their lives in the name of freedom and of peace. We especially remember the members of Canada's Armed Forces who are serving our country in Afghanistan. We make a special effort with our students to remind them of their ability to be peacemakers in their school, in their homes and in the world.

Kathleen Fraumeni, Principal

Changes in the Wind ... Mrs. Fraumeni is retiring

We have always said that the most constant thing about St. Mary's is change. As of December 31, 2009, I am retiring and someone new will be here to greet your child in the new year. As I have shared with you in my letter that was sent home on October 29th, I have enjoyed a career in education for thirty five years more than I am able to put into words. For almost 20 of those years, I was either a teacher or principal at St. Mary's. It will be very hard to say good-bye but the timing is right for me and for our family. Thank you to everyone for your love and support and for allowing me to be a part of the lives of your children. I will share the news of the person who will be the incoming principal at the appropriate time. I will continue to keep you and your families in my prayers.

Kathy Fraumeni

School Photos

Monday, Nov. 2

Full Performance Uniforms

Please note that our photo day is Monday, Nov. 2nd. Your child may need an extra reminder after the weekend to wear his/her Full Performance Uniform on Monday. Please send in your order envelope and payment on the day of the photos to Colledge Studios.

Report Cards, Parent Interviews for Term 1

Reports go home Monday, Nov. 30, 2009. Parent/Teacher interviews are Thurs., Dec. 3, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please note: Interviews are one night only. Friday, Dec. 4th is a regular school day and not allocated for Parent/Teacher conferences. If you are not able to book a time on Thurs. evening, contact the teacher for another time.

Student Illness – Staying Healthy!

Thank you to parents for assisting Ms. Vergeer by reporting your child's absence with the additional "flu-like symptoms" information. It has been very helpful to us in these challenging times. Please continue to do so.

Our students appear to be rallying after a few weeks of flu-like illness in our school at various grade levels. We continue to encourage healthy practices such as frequent hand-washing and the use of classroom hand sanitizers. We also encourage students to get plenty of rest and eat healthy meals and snacks. We will continue to share any timely communications with you that come to us from the School Board or from the Health Unit, when directed to do so.

School Council Meeting

Wed., Nov. 18, 7:00 pm – Library

We welcome all parents to our School Council meetings. Thanks to those who stepped forward as members of School Council for 2009-2010:

Roberta Purvis (Chair)
Marlane Liebusch (Vice-Chair)
Mike Whelan (Treasurer)
Suzan Walker (Secretary)
Heather Gregor
Sandra Toivonen
Community Rep.: TBA
Principal – Kathy Fraumeni
Teaching Staff Rep. – Sue Gosso
Non-Teaching Staff Rep. – Lorie Goodner

Ways and Means

1. Coffee Sales

This year, we are again providing world coffees for sale. Order forms have been sent home this month for free-trade coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Orders can be placed throughout the school year.

2. Christmas Tree Raffle



Watch for this year's beautifully decorated Christmas tree to appear in our upper hallway. Tickets for the tree will be available later this month. Be sure to buy your ticket to win the following: 1st prize – fully decorated 7 foot Christmas tree, valued at over \$700, 2nd prize – six tickets to our St. Mary School Christmas Concert!

Thank you to members of our Ways & Means Committee for heading up this year's Christmas tree decorating. The tree will be on display by mid November in the upper hall.

Thank you from your Ways and Means Fundraising Committee

Mrs. Joanne Murphy, Mrs. Carla Zubot and their committee send their thanks to all parents for your support of our Halloween Dance-a-thon. Your generous contributions greatly contributed to the success of the event. This year's funds raised from our various events will go toward the purchase of additional string instruments and additional new chairs for our school gym.

Thank you to parents and friends for your kindness in supporting this event. Thank you to Mr. Chiras for providing the on-going music and to parents for the terrific decoration in the gym!

EQAO Results for Gr. 6, 2008-09

We congratulate last year's Gr. 6 students, who took part in the EQAO Provincial testing in Reading, Writing and Mathematics in May, 2009.

Our results for students achieving Levels 3 and 4 are:

Reading 98%
Writing 94%
Mathematics 90%

Thank you to Gr. 6 teachers Mrs. Garcia and Ms. Gosso who prepared our students so well for the testing period and who address high standards of learning each day in their classrooms. Bravo!

Christmas Concert

**Wed., Dec. 9th, 7:00 p.m.
St. Peter's Cathedral**

Plans are well underway for this year's Christmas Concert. We will rehearse at the cathedral on Dec. 7, 8 and 9th. We thank Rector Jim Mockler for allowing us to perform in the cathedral. Guest organist, Dr. Ron Fox, will play our carols. We look forward to seeing our St. Mary School families and friends.

Inclement Weather Bus Information



Bus information can be found on our Board website:

www.ldcsb.on.ca Click on the school bus icon. This site is updated by bus operators. Also listen to local radio stations for busing information.

Traffic Safety Issue on Lyle Street

The school asks that parents pay close attention to the "Loading Zone" signs for school buses on Lyle street.

If you are dropping off your child in the morning, please do not stop in the bus zone near the Lyle street doors. This area is for buses only.

Please pull your car past the post with the sign, and drop your child off there, closer to the church.

This practice allows all buses to make a safe stop within the area marked "Loading Zone".

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found box is already filled to overflowing. Please impress upon your children the importance of tracking their belongings. We will continue to display the items from time to time in order to encourage them to take them home. Please remind students to do their best to track their personal belongings.

Cross Country Congrats!

Congratulations to all our students for a very fine showing at the system Cross Country event in October. Once again St. Mary School had 100% participation and many personal bests were recorded that day.

A special thank you to coaches Anna McInerney, Susan Gosso and staff who assisted in preparing our students.

Hot Lunch Menu Changes

You may have noticed a few new items on our first round of Hot Lunch orders. Thank you to Mrs. Michelle Pian for taking the time to search out items that are affordable and in keeping with our school's high standards of hot lunch choices.

Please respond to the brief questionnaire on the form so that we can receive input and plan our next round of orders based on your responses and the needs of our students.

Please keep in mind that Hot Lunch is an option for our students in which parents may or may not wish to participate.

Thank you to Lorie and our Hot Lunch teams and to coordinator Michelle Pian for their ongoing dedication to the Hot Lunch Program.

Hot Lunch

1. Additional Servers Needed

If you could offer your name to be placed on a list of "extra servers" to be called upon when needed, please call Lorie at 433-2478.

2. Christmas Turkey Dinner – Dec. 15th

We are always in need of additional parents to help at the annual turkey dinner for students and staff. Thank you to Michelle Pian for organizing this year's event. More details will follow.

No nuts, please!

Please remember not to add any nut flavourings or derivatives to any foods coming to school with

your child. This is also an important reminder for the talented bakers who supply sweets for hot lunches at the school! Many thanks.

News from the Library



1. New book collection

The Ministry of Education provided schools with an infusion of funds last year that allowed us to purchase many new and exciting books, fiction and non-fiction, and in the Arts for students from Gr. 5 to 8.

2. Addition of many arts related materials

Thank you to our librarian Barb Debniak for purchasing many beautiful and informative books on the arts to add to our collection. We have also added DVD's to support curriculum.

Chess – compliments of your School Council

We welcome Su Edwards, chess instructor, who is teaching our Grade 5 and 7 students each Monday until mid November. We thank School Council for generously providing funds for this instruction and for allowing all our students to attend the Grade-by-Grade Chess Tournament in March.

Helping Refugee Families

St. Mary School will be assisting families in St. Mary's parish again this year who have recently arrived in Canada. We will provide a list of ages and sizes of family members for a clothing donation and any furniture items that may be needed. Please watch for that information.

Sports Update

Our students have been very busy taking part in intramural sports. Thank you to Miss Gosso for running the 5-Aside Soccer program for our junior students. Volleyball season is in full swing. Thanks to our coaches, Mrs. Butters, Mrs. Rossi-Gioiosa and Mrs. McInerney for running that program. Thank you to university students Corbin Boniferro, Charlie Nicks and Shawn McCready who have so generously given of their time and talent to coach the boys'

intermediate volleyball team. Many St. Mary School teaching staff have assisted with supervising games. Thank you to all. Also, our Intermediate Hockey team will take part in our one day system tournament on Fri., Dec. 4th. Thank you to Coach Chiras for coaching the hockey team.

Upcoming Christmas Concert with Gerald Fagan and St. Mary School Nov. 27th at Centennial Hall

Once again, our Grade 7 & 8 students will be performing with Fanshawe Chorus London at Centennial Hall under the direction of Gerald Fagan. The concert is Fri. Nov. 27th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available through the school. Don't miss this very festive and lively concert with our students front and centre. Please bring family and friends!

Adults \$15.00

Children \$5.00

Students in the concert do not require a ticket.

Guest Author, Linda Granfield

Author Linda Granfield will be visiting St. Mary School on Nov. 6th. She will be speaking to all of our students about her books especially those with a connection to Remembrance Day and Canada's role in the world wars. Thank you to Ms. Debniak for organizing this very special visit. Ms. Granfield will focus on her new book called, "Remembering John McCrae".

Remembrance Day Ceremony



Wed., Nov. 11th, 10:45 a.m.

Thank you to our Gr. 6 students who will be leading us in song, prayer and reflection on Tues., Nov. 11th as we remember those who have died in war. Our focus, as always, will be our role as peacemakers in our world. Students from Grades 5 to 8 are expected to wear **full performance uniforms** (with the exception of Grade 6 students who are presenting).

Upcoming Events

Please refer to the calendar for times and dates of the following events:

All these events require **Full Performance Uniforms**.

Gr. 6 Choir

1. **Nov. 15, 2009 - 10:30 am Mass at St. Michael's Church, call time 10:00 a.m.**
2. **Dec. 4th – Orchestra London Christmas Pops Concert, Chatham Ontario, 8:00 p.m.**
3. **Dec. 6 – Orchestra London Christmas Pops Concert, London – Centennial Hall**

Gr. 7

1. **Nov. 22nd – 11:00 Mass at St. John the Divine Church, 10:30 call time**

Gr. 7 & 8 Combined Choirs

1. **Gerald Fagan Christmas Celebration at Centennial Hall – Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m.. Call time is 7:00 p.m.**

Uniform Update

We have many events coming up in November and December that require full uniforms.

As of November, all girls are required to wear their navy blue tights. If you have not yet purchased tights for your daughter, please do so at R.J. McCarthy's, 431 Newbold St., (519) 646-2913. Girls will not wear knee socks again until April.

A reminder: Girls should not be wearing high heels with uniforms. Flat shoes only, please.

Uniform Committee 2009/2010

Thank you to the many parents who volunteered for this year's uniform committee. We will be soon taking inventory of all available used uniform items in stock at school. If you would like to send in or purchase a used uniform, please call the school at 675-4423 or Mrs. Vandenhoff at 666-3204.

There are several students whose sweaters are appearing too small and girls whose kilts are now too short. Please look into purchased larger sizes either from our used collection or new items from McCarthy's before our Christmas Concert on Dec. 9th.

Parents, we need your assistance with String practice

There has been a noticeable lack of practicing of string instruments through the fall term.

It is our hope that, with your support, students will recognize their responsibility to practice 20 to 30 minutes/night, as stated in the school's homework policy. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping our students perform to the very highest of standards to which we know they are capable.

November 18th in the afternoon... Movie Day!

As a parting gift, Mrs. Fraumeni is providing a movie in the afternoon and a bag of popcorn for each student, in our gym. Your child may wish to bring an extra drink for the event that day. The name of the movie is... a surprise!