

Visit our website at [www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/elementary/StMaryChoir](http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/elementary/StMaryChoir)

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

St. Mary School, Choir and Orchestra Program, 675-4423

## “Giving Back through Time and Talent”

Dear Parents,

*As we begin a new school year at St. Mary School, we welcome you and your children back to school after an enjoyable summer with family and friends. As always, there will be new faces at St. Mary School this year among our students and staff and many new friendships will be made throughout the year.*

*Plans are already underway for many exciting activities for the 2009/2010 school year including visits from authors, artists and talented supporters of the Choir and Orchestra Program. We look forward to another year of learning and growing as a dedicated Catholic school community. We have adopted a school-wide theme of “Giving Back through Time and Talent”. We all have so much to give!*

*Kathleen Fraumeni*

### Welcome New Staff Members!

The new school year has brought many new faces to St. Mary School among both students and staff. We have also said good-bye to others.

At this time, we say good-bye to Mrs. Nancy Davis. Mrs. Davis was very recently given a permanent teaching position at another school. We wish Mrs. Davis well in her teaching career and we thank her for her amazing contributions to the life of St. Mary School. We welcome to 7H Mrs. Anna McInerney. Mrs. McInerney will be with us until December, when Mrs. Hunter will return. Mrs. McInerney is a long-time friend of St. Mary's, a former parent, a School Council member for many years and an occasional teacher. We welcome Mrs. McInerney to our St. Mary School family and to the Intermediate division.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Cathy Lourenco to our St. Mary School vocal department.

Mrs. Lourenco is a graduate of the Choir and Orchestra program as well as the Music Extension program at CCH. She comes to us with a depth of knowledge and skill as a vocal music teacher, conductor and accomplished musician.

We welcome Ms. Caroline Watters to St. Mary's library team. Ms. Watters will be our librarian each Monday and she will work closely with Ms. Debniak to serve the students and staff with library needs. Ms. Watters is also librarian at Assumption Catholic School.

We also welcome back Emer Montano as our accompanist.

### Prayers Needed

Please keep the Butters family in your prayers. Mrs. Butters and family mourned the loss of Mrs. Butters' mother-in-law, Violet Butters, over the summer.

### School Bell times and schedules

This year, our school bell times are changing slightly, due to the need to change from 10 minute recesses to 15 minute recesses.

Due to this change, our start to the day needs to be altered.

Here are our altered bell times:

School Entry Bell	8:50
Announcements	8:55
Period 1	9:00
Recess (a.m.)	10:15 to 10:30
Lunch	11:45 to 12:45
Recess (p.m.)	2:00 to 2:15
Dismissal	3:30

Please note: Some times may differ from the times listed in your child's agenda, due to recent adjustments required to scheduling.

### Your new St. Mary's Communication Folder

We are pleased to provide each family with a custom-designed folder. These folders were purchased by School Council with funds from an Ontario Parent Engagement Grant. We ask that you designate a special spot in your home for the folder where all your child's school notes and forms can be stored. Each family has its own unique way of organizing communications between home and school. We hope that this St. Mary's folder will assist you with that task in some small way. Thanks you to School Council.

### “Giving Back through Time and Talent”

St. Mary School is a Catholic school community dedicated to service. Whether it is through our liturgy outreach program in our diocesan parishes, volunteering at the London Food Bank, or raising funds of St. Mary's Parish, we are deeply involved in supporting the needs of others.

We continue with the theme of “Giving Back through Time and Talent” to remind all of us of all that God has given us as a school community.

Thank you for being so much a part of this supportive, creative and unique school community at St. Mary School!

### “Welcome Back” School Social

**Thursday, Sept. 10th, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Thank you to the Ways and Means Committee for organizing this wonderful event for our school community. Meet parents, your child's classmates and school staff while enjoying pizza and pop at reasonable prices! See you there!

### First School Mass

Our first school mass will be held at St. Mary's Church on Tues., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Parents are most welcome to join us for this celebration of the Eucharist.

This will be the first UNIFORM DAY of the year. Students are asked to wear the school uniform.

The maroon golf shirt for all students Gr. 5 to 8 will be worn as well as kilts, grey pants and black shoes.

## Hot Lunch Program

Thank you to Michelle Pian for coordinating the Hot Lunch program this year, along with Lorie. Hot Lunch will begin in October. Order forms will go out later this month. The Hot Lunch program, as always, is optional.

## Used Uniform

We have some used uniform pieces in various sizes. Please call the school at 675-4423 if you would like to take a look and purchase uniform pieces. Please note students will need to be in uniform for mass on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>

## Thank you to our Custodians

We have returned to a beautifully clean school with everything in tip-top shape. Thank you to Iole and Maria for their hard work and dedication over the summer. We have a beautiful new gym floor and other fine improvements to our school building.

## Private Music Lessons

Brenda Zadorsky – 472-9806 (voice)  
Bill Zadorsky – 472-9806 (violin/theory)  
Iole Pullaro - 657-4187 (piano)  
Cecilia Foltz, 433-4291 (piano)  
Gina Farrugia - 673-1594 (voice/violin)  
Peter Bartley, 435-1529 (violin & viola). Pager - 858-6997  
Kelly Eydt - 434-1982 (violin & viola)  
This is a reminder that lessons at St. Mary's must suit your child's school schedule. Students are responsible for catching up on school material missed during a private music lesson.

## Before and After School Drop Off and Pick Up

For safety and security reasons, we ask that students arrive no earlier than 8:15 a.m. and that they are picked up no later than 4:00 p.m. Morning supervision begins at 8:35 a.m. on the yard and the building is secured at 4:00 p.m. Please do not drive into the school yard during the morning as children are playing and practising for cross country running. Also, please note that cars cannot enter the yard before 3:20 p.m. when picking up your child at the end of the day. The yard is often used for physical education activities. When dropping off on Lyle Street, please move your car to the post near the church, allowing room for buses to pull up safely.

## Carpooling and Rides Needed

. Theresa Mathers at (519) 438-1391, is looking for a carpool. They live at 171 Windsor Ave. in old south London.  
. Chris Bermudez is also looking for a carpool to the White Oaks area, 206 Colette Dr. (Jalna & Southdale) (519) 649-2555  
. Adriana Villamil at 534 Maplewood Lane (Wonderland North and Oxford. Call her at (519) 854-0953.  
We will post a sheet at the Welcome Back Night to help parents connect with others who might wish to carpool.

## Information Sent Home For Your Attention and/or Action

1. **Fees** - Please see attached form at the end of this newsletter.  
. **STUDENT AGENDA PLANNER** - \$7.00 (mandatory for all students)

. **ACTIVITY FEE, TERM 1 - Gr. 5 to 8, \$20.00** This fee will support curriculum related field trips and activities throughout the year. If additional funds are needed later in the year, you will be notified.

. **MUSIC PROGRAM FEE** (offsets cost of sheet music for vocal and string and use of instrument) \$100.00 per student. It is important to note that \$100.00 supports some repairs to these very expensive and precious instruments. It is well below instrument rental fees that you would pay elsewhere. Thank you to School Council for the on-going financial support in maintaining the quality of our instruments at St. Mary School with your financial support

2. **School Insurance**  
Complete the form and send it directly in the self-addressed envelope along with the premium if you wish to purchase insurance for your child(ren). DO NOT RETURN THE ENVELOPE TO THE SCHOOL.

### 3. **Physical Education and Medical Forms**

These forms must be completed so that our Phys. Ed. staff has an up-to-date file for your child's participation in a variety of physical activities and any health-related issues for your child. These forms will come from your child's teacher.

## Uniform Days

Uniforms are to be worn for school Masses, performances and other events specified by the school. Students will be informed in advance about

Uniform Days. If your child is absent from school, it is good practice to have your child call a classmate re any uniform requirement. Also, the monthly newsletter and calendar of events will indicate Uniform Days well in advance, whenever possible. If a child does not wear his/her uniform, he/she will be required to wear the uniform the following day. Students have been very co-operative in accepting this responsibility and school procedure. Incomplete uniforms worn will also result in wearing the full uniform the following day. Please note: students who forget their uniforms are not permitted to call home to have uniforms delivered to school.

## Purchasing School

### Uniforms - [McCarthy School](#)

#### Uniforms

**Pieces required for Grades 5-8:**  
maroon crested golf shirt  
navy crested cotton sweater  
maroon tie  
new kilt (girls)

#### Plus

white crested oxford shirt (girls and boys)  
grey pants (boys)  
grey/navy socks  
navy tights for girls (Nov. - April)  
black shoes purchased elsewhere (no high heels for girls)  
Students will need Full Performance Uniforms (white shirts, sweaters, ties) for "The Sound of Music" in October. Please call McCarthy School Uniforms at 646-2913 to complete your uniform purchase.

-----  
**If you are in need of financial assistance with the purchase of your child's uniform, please call the school at 675-4423 and speak to Mrs. Fraumeni**  
-----

## Transportation

Students from county schools are bused to and from St. Mary's. Students are deemed eligible for county bus travel according to our Board's Transportation Policy. Please note that only students eligible to ride, are permitted on the county buses. Students within the city of London will continue to purchase LTC bus tickets or be driven (car pool) to school. If you need financial assistance with LTC bus tickets, please call the school at 675-4423. Please check the Transportation website [www.mybigyellowbus.ca](http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca) for updates on weather and scheduling.

## Physical Education

### Dress

Check the student agenda planner for details. Also, to ensure that the gymnasium floor remains clean, we ask that students wear NON-SKID RUNNING SHOES to avoid black skid marks on the floor during activities. Outdoor shoes are not permitted in the gym for P.E. classes for safety reasons. Please send P.E. clothing and shoes to school in a cloth bag that can be hung on a hook.

## Parents new to St. Mary's - questions, questions, questions

We would like to welcome all our new students and families to our St. Mary School Community. For your convenience, we have established a "buddy system" for new parents, with parents already familiar with the school routines. If you are a new parent to St. Mary and wish to have your name and phone number given to a "veteran" parent, please return the form attached to this newsletter. If you are a "veteran" parent and wish to assist our new parents with information, please sign also and return the form. Thank you for your help.

## Cross Country Meet

100% participation is our school goal and philosophy. Once again this year, our entire school will be going to the system Cross County Meet at Regina Mundi College the week of October 5th, 2009.

Notification of our date to participate will be given at a later date. **It is the expectation that all students attend school on the day of the Cross Country meet.**

Students are encouraged to complete the course at their own speed and to do their personal best. This is an opportunity for each student to contribute to our total team effort. Therefore, we are counting on 100% participation. The Cross Country Meet is a culmination to our instructional physical education program cross country unit. A Cross Country Running Club for Junior and Intermediate students is being offered in the mornings by Ms. Gosso and Mrs. Davis. Please encourage your child to become involved in this additional cardiovascular fitness activity. Parents are invited to join us at the Cross County Meet to help cheer on all our runners. The date and times will follow.

## Nut Free Zones

This year we have students in our school with severe peanut product allergies. As a result, we will declare specific classrooms as "Nut Free Zones". Please refrain from sending peanuts or peanut related products to school to ensure the safety of all our students. Letters will be sent to parents of all students in the designated "Nut Free Zones" to further explain the details of a peanut allergy. In keeping with "Sabrina's Law", all staff members will be trained in the use of the epipen.

**If your child has an allergy to nuts and you have not informed us, please let the school know immediately.**

## School Council

### Call for School Council Committee Members

St. Mary School has a long history of the generous support of many active committees of parents. Each year we urge parents to become involved in our committee work as a way to support the Choir and Orchestra Program for your children. Please sign onto any committee(s) that you feel would benefit from your time and talents.

**Return the attached form to your child's teacher by Wednesday, Sept. 16th.**

Thank you for the generosity of your time and talents!

## School Council Elections

### Nominations:

St. Mary Catholic School Council Elections Nomination form is included in this package. We would ask that you read it carefully and **return it to the school by Wed., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**. Nominations are needed for our six "core" positions. Our first School Council meeting with the new council will be **Wed., Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** in the Library. All parents are invited to attend and be part of that very important gathering. This will be followed by Literacy and Curriculum Night for Parents at 7:00 in the gym.

## "Hep B" Shots for Students

This year all grade 7 students as well as any other 12 year old students will receive Hep B shots. This first shot is Sept. 23rd and the second is March 31, 2010. Forms will be sent home with all students at a later date.

## HPV for Gr. 8 Girls

Once again, the Middlesex Unit will provide the HPV shot for Gr. 8 girls. As in the past, it is a parental decision to allow your daughter to receive this particular vaccine.

Dates are

# 1 Sept. 23, 2009

# 2 Oct. 29, 2009

# 3 March 31, 2010

Information packages are being sent home which include a letter from the London District Catholic School Board and the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## Ways and Means and School Council

### Fundraising

#### Flat Fee \$105.00

Please refer to the attached letter from School Council outlining the school's vital fundraising events planned for this year.

Don't forget to watch for our Dinner/Dance/Auction event in the early spring!! It is the best! If you have never attended before, plan to be there. What a great way to enjoy food, music, dancing and raise money for our school.

This year's Ways and Means Committee co-chair are Carla Zubot and Joanne Murphy. Thank you for your leadership.

## Snack Bar

The price list is as follows:

Buns - .50 cents

Chips - .75 cents

Rice Krispie Squares - .75 cents

Milk (White or Choc.) .75 cents

Juice - .65 cents

Just a reminder ... the snack bar is not meant to provide a lunch for students but rather, a few snacks to supplement the nutritious lunch they bring to school. **If there is a parent who could do occasional purchases at Costco for our snack bar, please call the school.**

## Permission Forms

On many occasions students are asked to have permission forms signed and returned to school in order that they can take part in a variety of off-site events.

**Please note that students who do not bring in a signed parent permission form by the required date, will not be allowed to attend the event.** We will no longer allow verbal permission over the phone when a child has forgotten his or her permission slip. Thank you for helping your child return all forms in a responsible and timely manner.

## Request for Volunteers

On occasion, parent volunteers are needed for string music repair and inventory. Any help is appreciated here at the school or at home. If you are available to assist in any way, please contact Mrs. Case or Ms. Kjeldson at the school. Any amount of time is appreciated.

## Volunteer Police Checks

In keeping with the **Policy I 5.3** of the London District Catholic School Board, this is a reminder of the need for parents who wish to volunteer at our school to provide a copy of a current **Criminal Background Check (CBC)**. If you do not have a current CBC, you will need to obtain one in order to volunteer. The Board Policy states that volunteers who will have "direct contact [with students] without supervision of Board employees present" must provide the school with proof of a Criminal Background Check. Since our class trips often require parents to be responsible for a small group of students for part of the day, it is required that the proper forms be in place.

Here are the steps you must follow:

1. Present the Letter of Introduction from St. Mary School (provided) to your local Police Service (London Police Service or county OPP office)
2. Pay the required fee for the CBC
3. Provide the school with a copy of the Criminal Background Check

If you had a Criminal Background Check for this year:

1. Fill out the 2009-2010 Offence Declaration for Volunteers form (provided)
2. Send the form to the school

## "The Sound of Music!"

**Oct. 28th, 2009, \$25.00 due Sept. 9, 2009**

Plans are well underway for our school trip to Toronto for all students to see "The Sound of Music". This is a reminder that the remainder of the trip cost is due tomorrow Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. We look

forward to a very exciting theatre experience! If you have not sent in the permission form, please do so. New Grade 5 students will need to bring both the form and the fee to school this week.

## A Message from St. Mary Choir Environment

### Committee/Eco Team:

When preparing lunches and snacks for school, we urge all families to use litterless, reusable containers as often as possible and to avoid over packaged and individual serving sized items. In this way, both money and the earth are saved! We also promote a "Boomerang" program whereby the following items are returned home each day:

- . fruit and vegetable waste for composting (transporting peels and cores in litterless container that may have contained a sandwich or other item)
- . uneaten food (rather than disposal in school garbage), so that parents see what is actually consumed at school
- . refillable thermos containers
- . stainless or other non-plastic water bottles

We are working hard to "green" our school and when individual efforts are combined, these small steps make a big difference!

Thank you for supporting our conservation efforts.

## Parent Permission for use of Internet at school and for posting photos

The use of educational websites at school is an important component of our curriculum. Please return the permission form that gives your child permission to use our school computers, if your child is new to St. Mary's. Students are supervised at all times when using the internet at school. We

also ask that you send in your response to the request to use your child's photo on our webpage or on the Board's web page in "Spotlight" and our school webpage. Your child's name will never be posted (without permission). We often take group photos of our students at performances or in the school setting. This information is important for the school to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

## Curriculum Night for Parents - Wed., Oct. 7, 2009 @7:00 pm

We invite all parents to join us for this enjoyable and informative evening with staff, guest speakers and other parents. Please watch for more details.

## Staples Inkjet Cartridge Recycling

St. Mary School is a proud member of the "Staples" recycling program. Please continue to deliver your used ink cartridges **directly** to "Staples". St. Mary school receives a yearly contribution from Staples due to your efforts. Thank you and think green!

## June, 2009 Concert CDs - \$5.00

We have additional concert CDs available from our final concert in June, 2009. Please have your child pick up an order form in the office if you wish to purchase this historic and beautiful recording.

## H1N1 Preparedness 1. Clean Hands – Healthy Practices

The London District Catholic School Board has worked closely with local health units to create a Pandemic Plan, in light of the presence of the H1N1 virus. At the school level, we are looking a preventative measures to ward off illness by encouraging students and staff to wash their hands thoroughly. We will also have alcohol-based hand sanitizers in classrooms for use when necessary.

## 2. Reporting your child's absence

As always, all schools must track student absences carefully. We are now monitoring the level of "flu-like symptoms". We ask

parents to do the following:

- . continue to inform the school of your child's absence for any reason.
- . when leaving a message about an absence, please state if your child "does" or "does not" show "flu-like symptoms". This will help us in our tracking of illness and avoid an additional call to your home to clarify the reason for your child's absence.

Please check your Health Unit's website for more information regarding your family's health.

[www.healthunit.com](http://www.healthunit.com)

[www.elginhealth.on.ca](http://www.elginhealth.on.ca)

[www.county.oxford.on.ca](http://www.county.oxford.on.ca)

You can also check our Board website at [www.ldcsb.on.ca](http://www.ldcsb.on.ca) for updates on H1N1 preparedness.

---

**PARENT BUDDIES**

I am a **Grade 5** parent who would like to have a “Veteran Parent” as a contact.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I am a “**Veteran Parent**” who would like to assist a Grade 5 parent, if needed.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

## Smile Checking

Dear Parent,

As part of School Health Services in schools served by the Middlesex-London Health Unit, dental hygienists from the Middlesex-London Health Unit do annual dental screenings in certain grades. Any child requiring care may be re-screened several months later to look for improvement. The screening is NOT a substitute for a dental exam. The dental hygiene team will be visiting our school for dental screening.

If you as a parent do NOT wish your child to be involved with this health program, please write a note to the school with your child's name, grade, and teacher to indicate this.

Any questions may be directed to the Dental Services, Middlesex-London Health Unit at 663-5317, ext. 22331.

Fees payable to **St. Mary School:**

Activity Fee (for all grades)	\$20.00
Agenda Planner	\$7.00

Fees payable to **St. Mary Catholic School Council:**

Music Program Fee	\$100.00
Gr. 5 (and new students) - Theory Books & Rosin	\$10.00
Gr. 6 - Theory Books	\$6.00
"Flat Fee" to opt out of fundraising	\$105.00/student

**All fees are due to the classroom teacher by Friday, Sept. 25th . Thank you!**

**\* Please note which amounts are payable to St. Mary School  
or St. Mary Catholic School Council**

---