



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL
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February 4, 2009

Issue 6

Principal's Address

During the month of February we have many things to look forward to. As we begin the second month of the New Year, we encourage all of our students and staff to strive to live up to our theme of "What Would Jesus Do".

Some of the most important upcoming events are the beginning of the season of Lent and the continued preparation of our First Communion and Confirmation candidates. Both First Communion and Confirmation will occur in May. Parents of children hoping to make their First Communion are reminded of a very important Parent Meeting on Feb. 24th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Church.

The next Super Saturday for confirmation candidates is Saturday February 21st at St. Peter's Church.



Student Recognition

Two of our students will be recognized at the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board's Applause Breakfast. Curtis Blake and Theresa Roosemalen were chosen as two students from our school that do an exemplary job of making our school a better place to be. The positive influence they have on the school is truly a role model for all our students. Theresa and Curtis will attend breakfast with their parents on Feb. 10th in Clinton.

LITURGICAL EVENTS

We thank Father John and Father Maciek for the continued weekly class masses at school. Please remember that you are always invited to join us for any of our masses or assemblies.

Our next full school mass will be on Ash Wednesday, February 25th at 9:15 in the gym. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the most important time of preparation in the church year—Lent. Lent is a time of giving, prayer and fasting. We hope all students use this time to prepare for the great celebration of Easter.

MOTHER TERESA

FAITH IN ACTION AWARD 2009

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is pleased to host the 5th annual Mother Teresa Faith in Action Awards which recognize exemplary service to Catholic Education.



The Award honours the people of Huron-Perth who strive every day to live out their faith...and in doing so, create school communities, which embody the very mission of Catholic Education.

This year our school community has proudly nominated **Pat Flanagan** as a person we feel strives to make our school community faith filled.



SCHOOL INFORMATION ITEMS

Science Fair

Mrs. Bloomart has begun working with any student interested in entering this year's Science Fair in Seaforth. This is an excellent learning opportunity for any Junior or Intermediate aged student. Any student interested in being part of this experience must notify Mrs. Bloomart as soon as possible.

French Immersion Information Night

If you are interested in our French Immersion program at St. Mary's or are planning to enroll your child in this program please plan on attending our French Immersion Information Night on Tues. Feb. 10th. 7 p.m.

School WebSite

Beginning this month we are going to attempt to post all correspondence/letters that go home, on our school website @ <http://goderich.hpcdsb.edu.on.ca/> Hopefully this will help alleviate the problem of newsletters and notes getting missed or received at home in a timely manner.

Swim to Survive Program

In the coming months our Gr. 2/3 English and Gr. 3 FI classes will be involved in the Swim to Survive Program. More information about this program will be sent with the students in these classes.

Peaceful and Healthy School Update

As you are aware our school has been designated a Healthy School and our Safe and Healthy School initiatives have begun. Our healthy food choices and snack program has been initiated. We greatly thank Annette Gerdes and Ann Doherty for spearheading these projects. Thanks to the work of Annette and Amy Zoethout, each classroom is equipped with a snack bucket to be used by students when necessary.

Mrs. Doherty is coordinating our weekly healthy food choices program where every week, every student is invited to snack on a fresh healthy food choice.



We also continue our focus on ensuring St. Mary's is as safe (free from physical, verbal or social harm) and healthy as possible. We know that students cannot learn unless they are physically and emotionally healthy. Under the guidance of Anne Marie Lambert, our Peer Peacemakers program is up and running. These Peace Spartans from our Gr. 7 and 8 classrooms help with trying to ensure that our playground is a safe and welcoming place for all our students.

Information Night - All parents and community members are invited to an extremely informative presentation on the harmful effects of bullying which will be hosted by our school on Thurs. Feb. 26th beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please plan on attending this excellent presentation hosted by Therese Bowler.

Eco School Update:

Litter-less Mondays!!

Every Monday in February is a LITTER-LESS LUNCH DAY. Parents and students are encouraged to pack litter-free lunches to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills. Pack fruit or snacks in reusable containers. Classrooms will compete to see who reduces their waste the most over the month. The classroom that does the best job reducing their garbage will be awarded a **PIZZA PARTY** sponsored by New Orleans Pizza, Goderich.



Safe Arrival Program ~ Student Absences ~ Flu Season

Follow up actions are critical to the safe arrival of our students. **Parents are reminded to call the school when your child(ren) are absent from school for any reason.** Also, with the flu season upon us, please give the reason for the absence. We are required to report to the Health Unit if over 10% of our school population has the flu. You may leave a message on the school's voice mail, attendance/main office/principal at anytime, day or night.

Annual Performing Arts Festival

The Huron Perth Catholic District School Board Annual Performing Arts Festival will be held in May at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School. The purpose of the festival is to celebrate and share the achievements of the performing arts programs in our Catholic schools. The focus of the day will be on music, drama and dance.

A selection students of will be performing. If any parent would like to help in preparing our students for the festival, please contact the school.

Family Fun/Literacy Night

Our Family Literacy Day/Fun Night was held Jan. 26th. The day included a guest author presentation with our students during the day as well as the guest author presenting for all our families in the evening, followed by fun and games for all. We thank all those who were able to join us for this wonderful evening. It is great to see so many families celebrating and enjoying the importance of literacy. We thank our School Advisory Council and Student Council for helping organize this great evening.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our SAC held its monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 19th at the school. The council discussed plans for many upcoming events including our annual Spring Fair to be held on May 22nd. Any parents wishing to join us for these meetings are invited to do so. The next meeting will be on Monday, February 23rd.

The first meeting of our School Fundraising Committee will be on Tues. Feb. 10th at 5:00 p.m. in the library. It is our goal to start working towards raising enough money to install more playground structures at St. Mary's. If you wish to be a part of this very worthwhile committee please plan on attending this meeting. The more hands the better!

Sports Update

Basketball Free Throw: Many of our students aged 10-14 years participated in the school level free throw competition. The top scorers for each age group qualified to participate at the local K of C Free Throw Competition held on Jan. 24th. Congratulations to the following students who represented our school. Aaron VanAaken, Dirk Wolterbeek, Hannah Wiebe, Lena Robinson, Kody Langlois, Joel Crane, Lauren Doherty, Jenna Knoop, Connor Cox, Jamie Huber, Natasha Dobos, Anna Denomme, Scott Franken, Colin Jansen, Keira Durnin, Elizabeth Duern, Chace Robb-Duckworth, Andrew Avis, Valerie Robinson-Kyle, Aja Hogan-Cann. Special recognition goes to Joel Crane who placed 1st, Connor Cox who placed 1st, Jamie Huber who placed 3rd, Lena Robinson who placed 1st, Jenna Knoop who placed 3rd, Natasha Dobos who placed 2nd, and Keira Durnin who placed 2nd in their respective age divisions. We thank Mr. O'Hara for all his work in overseeing this event.

Bordenball: Students in Gr. 5/6 have begun intramural tryouts for the upcoming Bordenball tournament at St. Anne's on Feb. 26th. We thank Monsieur St-Arneault for coordinating this league and our Sr. students and teachers for supervising the games. Teams that will represent our school will be chosen in the coming weeks.

Ice Hockey: Our school is also working on submitting teams for the upcoming K of C Hockey Tournament held in Seaforth during March Break. We thank Fr. Maciek for coaching these teams. Practices will begin next week. More information will be sent to those students who have indicated interest in taking part in this tournament.

Canadian Parents for French Update:

Upcoming events sponsored by CPF - - -

VALENTINE'S YOUTH DANCE on Friday, Feb. 13th from 7:30 to 10 p.m. upstairs at the Old Arena for Grades 6, 7 and 8. \$5.00 admission, snacks available, fully chaperoned. Sign in and Sign Out.

VALENTINE'S FRENCH STORY HOUR AND CRAFTS at the Goderich Library on Saturday, Feb. 14th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Grades 1 to 5 only and **MUST** register at the library by Feb. 6th. Limit of 20 children. Grade 7/8 needed as volunteers. Please contact Suzanne after 6 o'clock at 524-6244.

School Based Worker Update:

What is Self Esteem?

Webster's dictionary defines self esteem as "a confidence and satisfaction in oneself".

How can parents foster the development of self-esteem in their children? By providing opportunities for children to complete tasks that are within their developmental capabilities and praising them for a job well done, a child will learn to feel good about their abilities. It is also important to relay the message to them that to try and fail is more important in life than not trying at all. Be open and honest with them when they are struggling to complete tasks, and provide them with non judgmental, non disparaging feedback. It is also important to teach children that being the best is not the same as doing your best.

Lastly, be careful not to compare the capabilities of one child with the capabilities of another child. This will only force a child to seek their sense of self worth by competing with others or by trying to be better than others. Each child is a unique individual with a unique set of capabilities that need to be appreciated and cherished.

The best way to prepare for a great tomorrow is by doing your best today!

Inspirational Quote:

"Parents need to fill a child's bucket of self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke holes in it to drain it dry". Alvin Price

GRAD PHOTOS ~ Gr. 8s & Sr. Kindergarten

Monday, February 9th for all SK-A and Grade 8s

Wednesday, February 11th for all SK-B

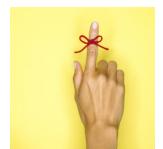
Gowns are provided ~ a white collared shirt or blouse is recommended. All grade 8 and senior kindergarten students will be photographed. You will be able to preview the images and purchase as you wish.

A Grade 8 Class Composite, 11 x 14, in a vinyl folder is available to order for \$25.00 by pre-payment only. The order envelope with payment is to be returned to the photographer on portrait day.

Important Reminders:

Family Day: Feb. 16th

March Break: 16-20th, 2009, inclusive



CHEERS

Cheers to Mrs. Gerdes and Mrs. Ann Doherty for their help with the school snack programs.

Cheers to all the community members for supporting the Quebec Trip. Special thanks to the parents who acted as chaperones on this trip. It is only through the support of our parents and community that such trips are possible.

Cheers to Mr. Psukta for organizing and overseeing our school Building Clubs at lunch recess.

Cheers to our Gr. 7 & 8 Peace Spartans who have begun their work on helping to ensure our playgrounds are a safe and happy place for all.

Cheers to our School Environmental Club for all the initiatives they are undertaking to help ensure our school is as environmentally friendly as possible. Special thanks to the parents volunteering with this club.

Cheers to all our parents and community members who have been volunteering in our classrooms. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

BACK UP YARD DUTY MONITORS NEEDED

We are extremely blessed to have wonderful yard duty monitors. Certain days however require these people to be away. If you would like to be considered as a substitute yard duty monitor please submit your name to the school principal. This is a paid position for days worked. Anyone accepted for this position would need a criminal record check completed.

St. John Ambulance Babysitting Course

Saturday, March 21st

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cost \$55.00

Bring lunch & snack, notebook & pencil, and a doll

Location: Bayfield Lion's Building (beside the fire hall)

To register phone: 519-524-1076

