



## ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

70 Bennett Street East  
Goderich ON N7A 2H3

Phone: 519.524.9901 Fax: 519.524.9485

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Issue 3



### From the Principal's Desk



*Another very busy and exciting month has come to a close. Students, parents and staff should be very proud of the accomplishments and undertakings that our school community has achieved.*

*As we begin the month of November, we should take time to remember the brave men and women who gave up their lives for peace and freedom, also, it is time to remember all of our family members and friends who have passed away. Let us keep these people in our thoughts and prayers throughout the month of November and always.*

*On November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. all grades will gather together to take part in a Remembrance Day assembly. We want to ensure we never forget all those who lost their lives for us. We want to let our veterans know that we do remember them and sincerely appreciate what they have sacrificed for us. We thank Mr. O'Hara's Gr. 6/7 class for preparing this assembly for us.*



### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Students in our school who have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will receive this sacrament on Wed. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Church.

### Catholic Community of Caring

St. Mary's continues to strive to promote in all students, staff and community members a sense of family caring, respect, responsibility and trust rooted in our faith. We know that these are the pillars that any



person needs to live a fulfilling God centered life. Many activities at St. Mary's will be undertaken throughout the year to help develop our faith and the 5 pillars of a solid life.



A huge thank-you goes out to all families who supported our Thanksgiving Food Drive. A total of over 500 non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

During the month of November we have many very worthy Outreach Projects. During the days of November 3-11<sup>th</sup>, poppies will be made available to all students and staff of the school, courtesy of our local legion. Students are invited to make a small donation to the Legion's Poppy Campaign. Please remember to send a small donation for the poppies your child(ren) will receive. Aja Hogan-C, Damien D and Jeff G and will represent our school at the wreath laying on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the cenotaph.

**Rosary Apostolate:** St. Mary's is delighted to have begun this wonderful activity with all our students. Once a month volunteers from our parish community visit each classroom to introduce and pray the rosary with them. Through this program we teach our students one of the most beautiful and powerful prayers of our faith as well as help them gain an understanding of what this prayer is all about. We sincerely thank Jim Shanahan for organizing this ministry in our school and all the volunteers who are dedicating their time to this cause.

### Christmas Celebration

Mark December 10<sup>th</sup> as our schools' community celebration of the Season of Christmas that will once again take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall. More information about this special night will be sent home closer to the date. Any parent interested in helping with this evening of celebration is asked to contact Mrs. Hogan or Mrs. Lambert.

### Huron County Christmas Bureau

Our school will once again support the Huron County Christmas Bureau. Unwrapped gifts must be at school by December 11<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent home in coming weeks.



## SCHOOL INFORMATION ITEMS

### Thank-you

A huge thank-you goes out to all parents who came out to help with our School Playground Improvement Work-Bee on Sat. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a big day and many school yard improvements were completed. We could not have done it without the generous donations from so many people. Special thanks go to Bryan and Darryl Lavis for supplying all the heavy equipment and sand needed for our upgrades. Special thanks also goes to Gys and Peter Weverink at Shoreline Welding for our beautiful new soccer and volleyball standards. Also many thanks to the following individuals who lent a hand or made contributions to this day: Tim Martin, Emmilla Doherty, Leila Buchanan, AnneMarie Lambert, Teresa Wilds, Rick Denys, Mary Hansen, Yleon and John Voskamp, Mary Louise Dalton, Cathy Cook, Jean Cook, Graham Cook, Kevin Cook, Teresa Donnelly, Dana Doherty, Bill Lewis, Mike Bowler, Jim Sinnett, Rob Dunn, Tom Franken, Jeff Cale, Gerry Good, Perry May, Ward Baxter, Jim O'Hara.

### St. Mary's Behaviour Management

#### Parent Information Night

November 25<sup>th</sup> 7-8:15 p.m.

Please join us for this extremely important information night for parents. We know handling our children's behaviour can be one of the most taxing things for anyone raising children. Continuing to develop sound skills in responding to our children's behaviour is key to parenting success.

Current research strategies and practices for dealing with children's behaviour will be explained. Come out for a great evening of essential information regarding behaviour management for all aged children. This evening is being hosted by guests from Thames Valley and Todd Psuka our School Resource Teacher.

### EQAO Results

Parents of students in grades 4 and 7 have received their child's results from last June's EQAO testing in the areas of reading, writing and math. The results from this year showed that our Gr. 3 students performed below the board and provincial results on number of students achieving level 3 in the areas of reading, writing and math, and at Gr. 6 our students performed above the board and provincial results in reading but below in writing and math. The school will continue to utilize information gained from these assessments to help improve student learning. Please contact the school if you would like more detailed results.

### Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will take place at St. Mary's School on November 21st from 9:00-12:00 p.m. Please phone or drop into the school to receive a Kindergarten Registration package. **Forms must be completed and returned to the school before November 21<sup>st</sup>.** Documentation required for you child to register includes Birth Certificate, Immunization Record and Baptismal Certificate.

**Please note:** Registration day is by appointment only.

### Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and interviews will be scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> evening and December 5<sup>th</sup>. An interview scheduling form will be sent home shortly. Students from grades 5-8 are encouraged to attend with their parents.

### System P.A. Day

Please note November 7th is a P.A. Day. There will be no school for students. All employees of the Board will be at St. Anne's Secondary School in Clinton. The 2 keynote speakers will be - Marc Kielburger, author of *Me to We: Educating Creative, Compassionate, and Committed Young Leaders* and Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire author of *Teamwork and "don de soi": The Gift of Oneself*.

The MacKay Center is hosting a children's program on this PA Day entitled "**Clowning Around On P.A. Day with Bugsy and her Clown Friends.**" There will be face painting, balloon creatures and lots of games for everyone. This runs from 12:00-2:00 p.m. or 2:15-4:15 p.m. For tickets please call 519-524-4442 or see the community bulletin board at school for more information.

### **SPORTS UPDATE**

Our school teams were very busy throughout the month of October. Many students represented our school at System Cross Country Meet at Wildwood. The dedication our runners displayed in training for their meets was amazing. Special recognition goes to all our runners for an outstanding job.

Practices have now begun with our Gr. 7/8 students in anticipation of our System volleyball tournament in December. We thank the students and coaches who are preparing for this event.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER



Parents and students are reminded to listen to CKNX Wingham FM 102 or AM 920 to check if buses are delayed or cancelled.

You can also get quick and accurate information by going to the School web page where bus delays, school closures and cancellations of sporting events and trips will be posted. The school web page can be accessed by typing in the following address: <http://goderich.hpcdsb.edu.on.ca>, then clicking on "bus delays/cancellations/school closures". Parents can make the school web page their "homepage" on their internet browser by typing in the school web page address then going to "tools", "internet options", then click on the "use current" button.

## SAFE & HEALTHY SCHOOLS

In our continued effort to ensure St. Mary's is a Safe and Healthy School for all of our students, a number of initiatives continue to be worked upon.

**#1 Healthy Eating** - Please be reminded; students and parents are to pack a healthy lunch and snacks each day. Only healthy snacks are allowed to be eaten at first recess and only water is allowed in the classrooms to drink. In the future we are hoping to begin our universal snack program at St. Mary's. If you would be willing to help with this program please contact the school.

**"Well-nourished children and adolescents are more likely to be better prepared to learn, be active, and maintain their health as adults."**

*Ontario Society of Nutrition  
Professionals in Public Health*

**#2 Daily Physical Activity** - Students in all grades are involved in a minimum of 20 minutes of daily physical activity.

**Dress warm for the weather** With the arrival of the month of November comes the reality that as Canadians we must deal with harsh weather conditions. Please ensure that your son/daughter is dressed appropriately. They need to keep warm and dry while out on the yard at recess. All students must have a second pair of shoes at school.

**#3 Focus on Bullying** - St. Mary's continues to make this a focus at our school. Our senior students are continued to be trained in establishing a Peer Helper program in our school. If you have an interest in helping with this program please contact the school.

**Health Unit Update** - On November 14<sup>th</sup> grade 8 girls will receive second dozes of HDV#2 if required and any missed Men C

**Head lice** is an ongoing concern. It is everyone's responsibility to understand and control head lice. Please continue to be diligent in checking your own children's heads on a regular basis. Remind your children not to share combs, brushes, hats, etc. with other children.

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The next SAC meeting will be held on Monday **November 17<sup>th</sup>** in the school library beginning at 7 p.m.. An open discussion regarding school improvement is planned as well as discussions around Christmas activities.

The SAC is hosting a **Family Photo Opportunity** for any family in our school or school community who desires to get some wonderful family photos done. These photos will be available in time for Christmas. The Family Photos will be taken on Friday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-9:00 p.m. and Sat. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00-2:00 p.m. More information regarding this and how to book an appointment will be sent home shortly.

## SANTA CLAUS PARADE

The Goderich Santa Claus Parade will be on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our school is considering entering a float and students and their parents could be invited to represent our school on the float. Please make sure to complete the note that was recently sent to you if you have an interest in helping make a school float possible.

## SPARTAN CHEERS



Cheers to all families and student council for leading the school to such a successful food drive!

Cheers to the parents who have supported us at our sporting events!

Cheers to all those who have already begun or will soon begin volunteering in classrooms!

Cheers to all our parish volunteers for leading the first of a series of our Rosary Apostolate!

Cheers to the Student Council for helping organizing and running our school Hallowe'en Fun Day!

Cheers to LSAC and the parent volunteers who assisted with our Playground Improvement Bee.



## CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

Our Goderich Chapter of this group continues to be active in promoting the value of French Education. Please look for their link on our school web-site for up to date information.

CPF Youth Halloween Dance was a great success! I would like to thank all the wonderful parents/volunteers who participated. A Special Thank You to our Executive members for their usual support and devotion. Un gros Merci! Suzane Dorion

Calling all parents/tutors/educators who have any interest in the French language!

Mark you calendar! Nov. 26th at 7.00 pm @ St. Mary's school (7.00 - 8.30pm). Please come and attend an important information night about your own Canadian Parents for French local Chapter's Future. Your input and participation is more than welcome.

CPF is also hoping to put an entry in the Goderich Christmas Parade either alone or part of the St. Mary's School float on November 22, at 6.30 pm. Please contact Mme. Spaleta or Mme Lefebvre if you wish to help with this. Parent assistance is welcomed to decorate, sing, supervise and walk with our Banners.

Please call Suzane at 524 6244 to register your child by the 14th Nov. as we have limited space.

## LOST AND FOUND

The items accumulated in our Lost and Found Box located in the sick room (off the main office) will be sent to the St. Vincent de Paul at the end of each term. Please discuss with your child(ren) the importance of keeping their belongings in the designated area provided for them and ask them to check the Lost and Found Box frequently if they are missing items.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Around the night of Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> a young child's bicycle was stolen from the bike racks in front of the school. The bike is mostly purple with some black and stands approximately 2 and ½ feet high and has a set of training wheels on it. There is a very sad little 5 year old who would love to have his bike back. If you know of this bike please return it to the school bike racks at your earliest convenience. A small reward will be given if it is found.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL BASED SUPPORT WORKER: Allyson Austin

### Practical Parenting Tip #1.

What is the best way to stay connected to our kids?

Eat supper together.

Unplug tv, radios, computers, phones and plug into your kids!

Ask them about their day, make plans, share a laugh together.

Your children will be more likely to talk to you when things are not going well for them if you have an open line of communication with them.

### Inspirational Quote #1

If I had my child to raise all over again,  
I'd finger-paint more, and point the fingers less.  
I would do less correcting and more connecting.  
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.

I would care to know less and know to care more.  
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.  
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.  
I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.  
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.  
I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.  
I'd teach less about the love of power, And more about the power of love.

By Diane Loomans



## 2007-2008 Yearbooks

Yearbooks from the 2007-2008 school year are available for \$14.00 each. If you are interested in obtaining one please send cash or cheque to school to your child's teacher with a note requesting a yearbook. They are a great keepsake.

