



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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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 11th 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. Baxter's Gr. 7/8 class for preparing this assembly for us.



November will also have special meaning for St. Mary's this year as it is the last month that Mrs. Drennan will be employed as our school secretary. Mrs. Drennan has served in the role of secretary to St. Mary's School since June 1981. It is with much sadness that we say good-bye to her but wish her great joy and the best of luck in her retirement. Please make sure to mark **Thurs. Nov. 26th from 4:00 to 6:00** on your calendar. This will be our school community Come and Go Retirement Social to honour

Mrs. Drennan for her outstanding service to our school community. We would love to have everyone join us on extending our good wishes to her.

Mrs. Helen Van Osch has been hired as our new school secretary. She comes to us with years of experience in our school board. She will commence work at St. Mary's on Dec. 1st. We welcome Mrs. Van Osch to our school community and wish her the best of luck in her new role.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Students in our school who have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will receive this sacrament on Thurs. Nov. 12th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Church. We congratulate the following students on receiving this important sacrament: Adrien Arbour, Caden Beattie, Jared DeWinter, Jordyn Hodges, Faith Wilson, Dmitri Wolterbeek and Melanie Dietrich.

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 our families who supported our Thanksgiving Food Drive. 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 3-11th, 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. Molly Kilgore and Christine Heard will represent our school by laying a poppy cross during the ceremonies on November 11th at the cenotaph.

SCHOOL INFORMATION ITEMS

Rosary Apostolate

St. Mary's is delighted to be continuing 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 **Tues. December 8th** as our school's 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 10th. More information will be sent home in coming weeks.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will take place at St. Mary's School on November 18th 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 18th if possible.** Documentation required for you child to register includes Birth Certificate, Immunization Record and Baptismal Certificate.

Please note: Registration day is by appointment only.

SPORTS UPDATE

Our school teams were very busy throughout the month of October. Many students represented our school at System Cross Country Meet at Benmiller. 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.

Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home on November 30th and interviews will be scheduled for December 3rd evening and December 4th morning. An interview scheduling form will be sent home shortly. Students from grades 5-8 are encouraged to attend with their parents.

School Improvement Update

Continuous school improvement is something we constantly strive for. This year the school has committed itself to trying to instill in our students the mantra that "We Are Gifts To Each Other." Hopefully everyone continues to try to support each other in living up to this theme. As a school community we are also working on trying to make our school a peaceful and a respectful place for all people, demonstrated through our thoughts, actions and words. We also continue to try to meet the diverse learning needs of all our students by applying differentiated learning strategies. Most recently teachers have identified the academic expectation of *being able to extend understanding of text by connecting the ideas in them to their own knowledge and experience, to other familiar texts and the world around them* to focus on throughout the fall term.

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 above the board results in reading and slightly below the board results in writing and math. Our Gr. 6 results showed a number of students achieving level 3 or above in the areas of reading, writing and math but as a school average our students performed below the board results in all three areas. 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Parents and students are reminded to listen to CKNX Wingham FM 101.7 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 click 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.

Committee Meeting – The Safe & Healthy Schools meeting scheduled for **Monday Nov. 23 is at 3:45 p.m. not 7 p.m. as indicated on the Nov. calendar.** This meeting will be in the Library.

H1N1 Update – Please take note of the recent update attached to the November calendar. The school continues to take measures to help prevent the spread of any flu. Please continue to be vigilant in keeping students home if they are ill and by providing details of your child's illness when reporting absences.

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. We are delighted to be able to offer a universal snack program at St. Mary's. This program ensures healthy snacks are available in all classrooms in the event that a child has forgotten a lunch or has missed a meal. We are also very fortunate to offer a school wide fresh snack program that is offered on a weekly basis and gives every child in the school an opportunity for fresh, healthy snacks. We thank Mrs. Leirman and Mrs. Doherty for their continued work with these programs.

"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

Daily Physical Activity – As part of our Peer Pals program which is getting under way we are excited about beginning new daily Playground Games on our playground. Sr. students, under the direction of staff advisors, will run these daily events on our playground. It is our goal that all children are actively involved in inclusive games.

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.

Health Unit – Nov. 27^h gr. 8 girls receive second doses of HPV#2 if required, and any gr. 7 who missed Hep-B.

Focus on Bullying – St. Mary's continues to make this a focus at our school. Our senior students helping with our Peer Pals playground games are also trained on how to help ensure students are not a target of bullying. Staff members are also being trained on a classroom component of the Peer Pals program that will reinforce healthy peer interactions. If you have an interest in helping with this program please contact the school.

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 16th** in the school library beginning at 7 p.m. As always any interested parent or community member is invited to attend.

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. 13th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Sat. Nov. 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More information regarding this and how to book an appointment was attached to the November calendar.

School Spirit Wear

Once again we will be offering school clothing for sale. There will be T-shirts (long and short sleeve), hoodies and toques all with a school crest on them. Items will be on display at parent/teacher interview nights and all orders will be received back in time for Christmas.

Fundraising Update

A huge thank-you to all those who supported our calendar and greeting cards fundraiser. It was a great success. All monies raised will be put towards the purchase of some new playground structures.



Zehr's Tapes

Remember a very simple and pain free way to help raise funds for our school is through the saving of Zehr's tapes. Please just send any Zehr's cash register tapes you may have to school in an envelope marked for the office. Every little bit helps. Thank you!

SANTA CLAUS PARADE

The Goderich Santa Claus Parade will be on November 21st. Our school is once again entering a float and students and their parents are invited to represent our school on the float. Please make sure to complete the attached note if you have an interest in helping put together the school float or being on it.

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 Madame Spaleta, Madame Lefebvre and the group of students who recorded the song The Wheels of the Bus in a real recording studio.

Cheers to all those who donated to the Otesha Environmental group that visited our school.

Cheers to Erin Thompson for attending a recent Healthy School training seminar on behalf of our school.



2008-2009 Yearbooks

Yearbooks from the 2008-2009 school year are available for \$16.00 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.

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

Our Goderich Chapter of this group continues to be active in promoting the value of French Education.

Come one come all to the Family Nature Walk and "Course au trésor" (Treasure Hunt)

When: Saturday Nov. 14th from 2-4pm

Pouring rain date: Sunday Nov. 15th from 2-4pm

Where: Start at St. Peter's Church basement

Bring your friends and family at 2:00pm. You will receive instructions for the treasure hunt. Prizes, hot cider and lots of fun!

Once again CPF and St. Mary's School are entering a float in the Goderich Christmas Parade Nov. 21st.

Any offers of help and decorations for a Victorian Christmas are most welcome. We rely on and appreciate your collaboration.

Please contact the school or Suzane Dorion at 519 524 6244.

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.

HPCDSB E-NEWSLETTER

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is excited to announce the launch of its new monthly "E-newsletters" called "Rejoice"! Every month you can view informative news stories of the great things happening in our Catholic elementary and secondary schools - all by the touch of a button! In order for this to happen, just give the school your email address.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL BASED

SUPPORT WORKER Allyson Austin

Want a practical, non confrontational way to talk about how you feel when someone treats you in a manner that you do not like? Try using the WIN model. WIN is an acronym for "When" "I" and "Need". The premise of the model is to express what happened, how it made you feel and what you need. Using I statements encourages people to take ownership for how they feel in a respectful manner and discourages finger pointing. When we confront someone with "You Statements" we point fingers and people become defensive. We do not have the power to change other people's behaviour; we can only change our reaction to it. For example you could say "You are late again, you need to be more considerate, don't do that again!" (I'll bet you can picture someone shaking their finger at you!!!) The minute we use the word "You" we are telling someone to change their behaviour instead of taking ownership for how their behaviour affects us, and that places the other person on the defensive. This is how many arguments start.

Premier Award For Teaching Excellence

Every year individuals in school communities have the opportunity to nominate education professionals for outstanding work in the area of education. This can be an outstanding teacher, EA or anyone else that works with children in the school setting. If you would like more information on this nomination contact the school.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still looking for a parent or parents to help with our weekly pizza lunches. If you would be able to help in this regard please contact the school.