



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

70 Bennett Street East
Goderich ON N7A 2H3

Phone: 519.524.9901 Fax: 519.524.9485

October 2, 2009

Issue 2



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would first like to thank all staff, students, parents and community members for making the first month at St. Mary's such a positive and happy one. Your help and support are truly appreciated.

We would like to thank all the parents for their patience in completing and returning the multitude of forms that were sent home in September.

During the month of October we hope and pray for a bountiful harvest, and thank God for all this goodness. We also keep in our prayers all those going through difficult times. Through our thoughts, words and actions let's continue to demonstrate that we truly are a Community of Caring.

LITURGICAL EVENTS

Please continue to promote our school theme of, "We Are Gifts To Each Other" with your children. This message reminds all of us that each one of us is created in the image of God and every person's unique gifts are a blessing that they should discover and utilize to their fullest. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and have their unique gifts celebrated

Thank you to our Grades 1 and 7/8 English classes for planning our October Thanksgiving Mass. Please join us for this celebration on **Thurs. October 8th at 9:30 a.m. at St. Peter's Church.** Parent and community friends are welcome to join us in any of our celebrations.

OUTREACH PROJECTS

A huge thank-you to all students, staff and parents who supported us with their contribution to our first Outreach Project of the year — The Terry Fox Run. All funds raised will be forwarded to this very worthy organization.

Our second Outreach Project for the year will be the Thanksgiving Food Drive. All students are encouraged to donate non-perishable food items to this worthwhile cause. Items can be brought to school from Oct. 5th to Oct. 8th.

VIRTUES PROGRAMME

The Virtues programme is another way to help give students the knowledge and guidance they need to live their lives in the way Jesus would. Please check our monthly calendar for the virtue of the week.

SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Mary's Open House was held on September 16th. It was great to see many of you make the effort to attend. The benefit your children receive from seeing your interest in their school is immeasurable. The Scholastic Book Fair was also a huge success. Thanks to Mrs. Corriveau and Mrs. Good for organizing and overseeing this project. It is a great deal of work. Sales were wonderful with total sales of \$4113.07 We also received many books to compliment students' reading programs in the classroom and enhance the school library.

STUDENT COUNCIL 2009-2010

Our Student Council has been chosen for the 09-10 school year. We applaud these students for taking on leadership roles in our school:

Co-Presidents: **Kristine Heard and Molly Kilgore**
Classroom Representatives: **Hailey Johnston, Ellen Jansen, Kennedy Thom, José Sabourin, Matthew May, and Theresa Roosemalen.**

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Safe & Healthy Schools

We continue to try to make St. Mary's as safe an environment as possible for all students. In an effort to ensure student safety, a yearly safety update bulletin has been sent home to remind parents and caregivers of the routines that must be followed to ensure the safety of all. Please take careful note of these procedures and we thank you for your cooperation in helping ensure the safety of all our children.

Please Remember: Any change in pick-up routine for your child must be indicated with a written note to the classroom teacher. The agenda can be utilized for this purpose. Phone calls to the office indicating changes should be only for family emergency situations.

Also be reminded that there is no supervision on the playground until 8:30 a.m. Parents are asked not to send students to the playground until after 8:30 a.m.

A major area of focus in our school this year continues to be to address and reduce the incidents where students may be bullied. Our philosophy is that, "no child should ever go home hurt". In our continued efforts to achieve this, our school will be beginning a Peer Pals program. We are looking for parent volunteers to help with this program. If you would be willing to assist please contact the school and plan on attending the inservice on this program being held **on Oct. 7th at 3:45** in our school library.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

CALLING ALL THREE YEAR OLDS

In our interest to provide our students with the highest quality education, we are continuing the process of registration during the fall term for children who will enter, or are considering entering Junior or Senior Kindergarten in September 2010. Children who are 4 years of age by December 31, 2009 are eligible for Senior Kindergarten and those who are 3 years of age by December 31, 2009 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten. Registration will occur across the two counties during the month of November.

Our school's registration date is **November 18th beginning at 9 a.m. Please contact the school if you have a child who is eligible for registration.**

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The S.A.C. has met once this school year on September 14th with an excellent attendance of many interested parents. At this meeting the year ahead was looked at, initiatives and projects looked at, and fundraising ideas discussed. Our second meeting will be held on October 19th. A special thank you is extended to all those who volunteered to serve their school community and remember anyone is invited to come to our monthly meetings.

The first **playground fundraiser** for this year is the sale of calendars and note cards. Please be looking for information coming home next week.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Indoor shoes

Now that fall is officially here, all students must have a second pair of shoes at school to use as inside shoes. Running shoes are best as they are necessary for gym class; also, if possible—if the soles of inside shoes could be light, it will help reduce scuff marks that black soled shoes produce. By doing this, we all help maintain the cleanliness of the school.

Planners

Parents are reminded to check and initial their child's planners for homework and notes **every night**. This is one way to ensure that good communication exists between home and school. Thank you for your support in this matter. **IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID FOR YOUR CHILD'S PLANNER PLEASE SEND \$7.00 TO SCHOOL IN A MARKED ENVELOPE.**

Head Lice Checks

Please continue to be vigilant in checking regularly your child's hair for head lice. This is an unpleasant reality of life but if head lice are caught in their initial stages, they are much easier to eliminate thus curbing the spread to other children.

If you do detect head lice please let the school office know so that we can notify other parents in the class. Be assured, this is handled with confidentiality. If you require information on the treatment of head lice, please feel free to contact the school office or the Huron County Health Unit at 519 482 3416.

VOLUNTEERS ~ VOLUNTEERS ~ VOLUNTEERS



In early October we will be organizing and initiating use of those who have offered to be a school volunteer. If you have an interest in volunteering in any capacity, and have not yet informed the school, please phone the office. School Volunteers Forms will be sent to all those interested. Volunteers can do any number of important tasks and are essential for an effectively run school. Please consider offering some time to this worthwhile endeavour.

SPORTS UPDATE

Many of our students have been training faithfully for our Cross-Country Meets. Thus far our runners have taken part in the Maitland Run and the St. Anne's Eagles Invitational in Clinton. We had many outstanding finishes in both events. All runners should be congratulated on their participation and great performances thus far. The system Cross Country Meet will be held on October 14th at the Benmiller Conservation Area. Special thanks to Madame Lefebvre and Mrs. Lambert for their dedication to this team.

The soccer season has also come to an end. Students from grades 5-8 took part in the system tournament that was held on September 23rd in Exeter and Clinton. All teams played extremely well with some outstanding team results. Way to go Spartans! Special thanks to coaches, Mr. Holland, Mr. Baxter, Mrs. Sloan, Mrs. Bedour, Mrs. Glazier and special thanks to Mr. Wade Clark for volunteering with coaching our teams.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please remember to check our school Website for weekly updates on upcoming events.

October 8th Thanksgiving School Mass at St. Peter's Church -9:30 a.m.

October 14th System Cross Country in Benmiller
Rain date: October 17th

October 19th SAC Meeting, 7 p.m.

October 31st Halloween fun afternoon from 1 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. All students will be engaged in a number of Halloween activities here at the school. The teachers and Students Council will run the events. More information on this will be sent home closer to the date.

Canadian Parents For French News

CPF sponsored a French outdoor summer concert linked with the Celtic Festival. On Aug. 5th on the school grounds during lunch hour, the bilingual duo of "Martine and André" French folklore singers/jiggers was outstanding! It was a fun concert, a beautiful day, and with strong family participation.

Tentative Upcoming CPF Events:

Hiking/Treasure Hunt/Hot Cider for the entire family. (Nov 2009)

Family bowling / Skating to French music in 2010.

Volunteers and new members are needed to help organize these activities and more....

Please consider joining CPF If interested or able to volunteer some time please call Mrs. Elisabeth Spaleta at 524-9901 or email Mrs. Joan Good at jgood@hurontel.on.ca Thank you.

Donating Items for a Building/Technology Cart:

In order to promote opportunities for our students, St. Mary's is putting together a technology cart. We have purchased the cart and are looking for donations to help fill the cart., Tools needed to fill the cart are as follows: hand drills, drill bits (up to 1/4"), clamps, hot glue guns (large size preferable), safety glasses, small trim cutters, saws, nails, hammers, structure wood (10mm x 10mm x 24"), wooden slabs (small), pulleys (wood), axles, measuring tapes, miter boxes, dowels (small size).

If you are able to supply any of the above mentioned items please bring them to the school with a note indicating that they are for the technology cart. We are also grateful for cash or Canadian Tire money to help support this endeavour.

NEW EARLY YEARS PROGRAM

Would you like your child to learn **French**? Join us at St. Mary's School, in Goderich for a **French Early Years Program!** Wednesdays; beginning October 7th, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Each Wednesday we will have play time followed by circle time. A French speaking staff will lead the group in activities, song and stories in French. This program is great for families who would like to expose their children to French as a second language or a great way to prepare for the French Immersion school program.

For information - Call 519-482-8505

COMMUNITY NEWS

From the Desk of Allyson Austin
School Based Social Worker:

Health Unit News: HINI Update

As you are very aware HINI continues to be a high priority for schools. Please check our Huron Perth C.D.S.B. Website for Regular Updates. Every reasonable precaution is being implemented at all school sites. As part of the tracking of this illness parents are asked to indicate the type of illness their child has if a child is being kept at home. Parents are asked to simply indicate whether an illness is stomach-related, breathing related or other.

Students, staff and volunteers in the school are asked to stay home if ill, until they no longer have a fever and are well. Parents are asked to develop a contingency plan for child care should their child has the symptoms of influenza-like illnesses.

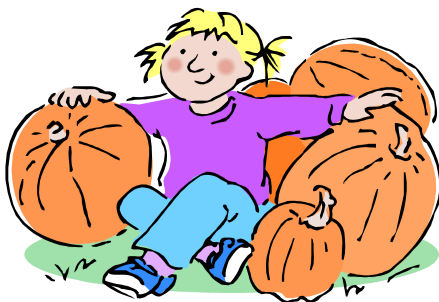
Also parents are reminded that Health Units will no longer be offering flu clinics in the school but will be offering these clinics at several locations on several days in our local communities. The Health Unit still strongly recommends that anyone over 6 months of age be vaccinated against influenza. For more information call the Health Unit at 482 3416.

Huron County Children's Aid

October is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. CAS welcomes our support as Children's Aid Societies across Ontario focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Christmas Bureau Collection Week

Collection week will be late November/early December. The Bureau needs our school and communities' support to provide gifts of new clothing and new toys to brighten Christmas for over 1,000 disadvantaged Huron County Children.



SPARTAN CHEERS

Cheers! to all the families who came out for our School Open House. It was great to see so many people.

Cheers! to our school soccer teams for their outstanding play at our recent soccer tournaments.

Cheers! to all those who took part and donated to our school Terry Fox Run.

Cheers! to all students, parents and staff for a wonderful first month of school.

Cheers! to Wade Clark for assisting with our soccer teams.

Cheers! to Dana Doherty for his generous donations to our school technology cart.

Cheers! to Bruce Stainton from Home Hardware in Wingham for the generous donation to our technology cart.