



St. Mary's School
Goderich

St. Mary's School

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January 19th, 2006
Term 2 Issue 3

Principal's Remarks

During the past two years, the St. Mary's School community has undergone a significant amount of change. Among the many changes are numerous changes to instructional practice relative to language and mathematics as well as a continuing evolution in assessment and evaluation practices. We have begun the journey of a focus on safe schools, augmented our technological capabilities and worked our way through a 2 million dollar renovation and addition to the school itself.

It has been a monumental learning experience for me as principal over the past two years and I will truly value my time serving the community in which I live. St. Mary's School is a special place – it has a caring and professional staff, a supportive and involved parent community, a strong relationship with the Catholic parish and a wonderful group of children. I will miss the children the most - they remind me daily of why I became an educator in the first place.

My hope for the school is that they will continue to raise the bar with respect to student achievement – students and staff should continue to challenge themselves to be better people and better learners. I also hope the school will continue to close the gap for those students that are struggling and need our extra attention. But most importantly, my hope for the school is that it continues to grow as a faith community. We are a Catholic school, guided by our faith – we need to carry the banner of Catholic education proudly – it is imperative that all members of the school community – students, parents, and staff can clearly articulate why our education system is different than the public system. Please pray for our students and staff as they enter the second half of the school year. I also know that the school community will welcome our new principal Mrs. J. Kuran with the same enthusiasm and kindness that I received upon arrival to this school.

Lastly, we will be celebrating the grand re-opening and blessing of our new addition on 2 February 2006 at 7:00 p.m.. PLEASE JOIN US and help us celebrate this special occasion. The blessing and dedication marks the 36th anniversary of our first grand re-opening for an addition to St. Mary's School! At that event Father Moynahan presided and Mr. J. Morrissey was principal. The past chair of the Board was there – Mr. V. Young and the future Premier of Ontario was in attendance, the then Minister of Education – William Davis. A special thank-you to our School Advisory Council, Mrs. Donnelly and Mrs. Hogan for their extra hard work in preparation for this special event.

NOON-HOUR MONITORS

The school is still accepting applications from candidates interested in working as a noon-hour monitor on an occasional basis—contact the school for details.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

TURN THE T.V. OFF AND READ! FOR FAMILY LITERACY DAY—READ TOGETHER AS A FAMILY! WORK THIS INTO YOUR REGULAR EVENING ROUTINE!

Visit the ABC Canada website for fun Literacy Day activities

www.abc-canada.org

THE GODERICH PUBLIC LIBRARY IS HOSTING DROP-IN ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN 3 YEARS AND UP BETWEEN 11:00 AM AND 11:30 AM. CONTACT THE LIBRARY FOR DETAILS 524-9261

FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING

There will be a meeting for parents of those children that intend on receiving the Sacrament of First Communion on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH AT 7:30 PM ST. PETER'S CHURCH

THE EUCHARISTIC FAIR

The Eucharistic Fair will be held on Saturday, 22 April 2006 at St. Peter's Church from 9:00 a.m.—to noon.

FIRST COMMUNION



First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, April 30th, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE-THROW COMPETITION

Saturday, 28 January 2006
10:00 a.m.—Boys
11:00 a.m.—Girls

GRADE 8 PARENTS INFORMATION NIGHT GODERICH DISTRICT COLLEGIATE

7 February 2006—7:00 p.m.

**SANTA'S PRAYER
ON CHRISTMAS EVE**
By Warren D. Jennings

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,
But Santa still knelt by the side of the bed.
"Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me tonight.
There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.
I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,
Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.
I will visit each household before the first light,
I'll cover the world and all in one night.
With sleigh bell a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,
Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.
To get in the house is the difficult part,
So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.
My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.

I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track.
I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.
I can do all these things Lord, only through You
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.
All this is to honour the birth of the One;
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.
So to all of my friends, least Your glory I rob,
Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job."
The End

REMINDER

GDCI Grade 8 Parents' Night
Tuesday, February 7, 2006
7:00—9:00 p.m.
West Gymnasium

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FREE THROW COMPETITION**

Saturday, January 28, 2006
St. Mary's School, Goderich

Boys—10:00 a.m.
Girls—11:00 a.m.
Snow Date—Saturday, February 4, 2006

Age Groups
9 10 11 12 13 14
Age as of Jan. 1, 2006


Each school may send 2 competitors from each age category. Each competitor will be given 5 practice free throws... in the competition competitors will be given 15 consecutive free throws. Please note that the 9 year old age group is new this year.

READING STRATEGIES

The following are strategies parents can use when reading with their children.

1. **Sense and Structure**
Does it make sense? Does it sound right?
2. **Predict**
Make a good guess.
3. **Skip, Read On, Go Back**
Could you leave it out?
4. **Skip It**
Could you leave it out? Is it an important word?
5. **Reread**
Go back to the start of the sentence and try it again.
6. **Substitute**
Put in a word that makes sense
7. **Picture Clues**
Can the picture help you?
Can you picture what's happening?
8. **Identify**
Where else have you seen that word?
Is it on the Word Wall?
9. **Sound it Out**
What's the sound?
Does it sound right?
10. **Ask someone**

Also, parents should model reading for pleasure.



"AAA" VOLLEYBALL RESULTS

Both St. Mary's boys and girls 7/8 volleyball teams participated in the tournament in Stratford on Tuesday, December 6, 2005.

The boys finished fourth in the round robin play, with the girls finishing third.

The girls lost their chance to advance to the consolation by losing in 3 sets.

The boys won the consolation championship defeating Holy Name in three sets.

Mrs. Gould and Miss Elliott would like to congratulate all players for a great day of volleyball.

NOON HOUR MONITOR

St Mary's School requires Noon Hour Monitors on an occasional basis. This is a paid position and the hours are 11:30 until 1 p.m. The successful applicant must have experience with children. Please contact the school if you wish to apply for this position.



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**GRAND RE-OPENING AND
DEDICATION MASS**

**THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2006
7:00 P.M.**

ALL ARE INVITED!!!!

**CALL THE SCHOOL FOR DETAILS
524-9901**