



# St. Mary's School

70 Bennett Street East Goderich ON N7A 1A4  
Phone 524 9901 Fax 524 9485

<http://goderich.hpcdsb.edu.on.ca>

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Term 2 Issue 2

## Bus Cancellations and School Closures

Your ongoing patience and understanding with respect to bus cancellation and school closure notification is greatly appreciated. Both school boards are trying a new manner of notification to the media and it will take some time to work out the wrinkles. There have been some complaints that the board website link has been malfunctioning. The server has been working properly - it is important that if you visit a website that you clear the cache from your memory - use Cntrl F5 to clear your Internet cache when you visit any website to ensure that you are accessing the most up-to-date information on any website.

It is important to note that predicting the conditions of our many roadways at 6:00 a.m. in the morning is difficult given the wide geographic area our school covers - there are occasions (like this morning) where bus decisions are made very late (e.g. 7:30 a.m.) - we endeavour to keep these to a minimum.

## Construction Update

The south wing classrooms and corridor has received its new VCT flooring. There are two major tasks that are incomplete - the first is the removal of portable classrooms (and erecting of permanent fence) and the second is the installation of the foyer floor tile. Both tasks are expected to be completed before we return in the new year.

## Safety Update

Please do not park vehicles in the semi-circle laneway that goes through our parking lot. If the parking lot is full - visitors may temporarily park on Gibbons Street - exercise extreme caution during busy times of the day. Never park on Bennett Street or in front of the school doors off Bennett Street - this is a bus loading zone.

## Spirit and Recognition Assemblies

The school hosts two recognition assemblies and spirit assemblies per month. We have a wildly successful "Golden Dustpan Award" and a variety of academic and behavioural awards. These assemblies are playing a vital role in freeing up teachers for mini-staff development sessions and improving the school climate.

## School Advisory Council Update

Our School Advisory Council has taken on a very ambitious schedule of projects and initiatives (well done!). Among their school year foci:

- \* Sales of spirit wear for the school community baring the new school logo.
- \* Organizing information sessions for parents to help their children improve their language and mathematics skills.
- \* Organizing the official opening and dedication ceremonies and Mass of the new addition to the building (2 February 2005 - 7:00 p.m.).
- \* Preparing for a Spring Fair to raise money for school needs. Last year's Spring Fair funds will be used (in part) to purchase a new keyboard for our music teacher so that she can bring music to all students in all areas of the school.
- \* Revitalizing the signs and symbols of our faith in the school.
- \* Participating in board sponsored information sessions (workshops) on a variety of topics from safe schools to mathematics.



The whole school community has benefited from the hard work and spirit of volunteerism that our SAC has given to our children.

## Christmas

The third week of Advent marks a time of joy in anticipation of the coming of Christ. It is symbolized by the lighting of the rose candle in the advent wreath. Our great joy is paradoxical - we wait and we search simultaneously. But what do we search for? We search for ways that we can reconcile with God and bare witness to the teachings of Christ. We will, as a school community, continue to work towards being peace-filled and faith-filled.

On behalf of the whole school staff, we wish you and your family a safe and faith-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**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.

**VOLUNTEERS AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, GODERICH ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE SCHOOL.  
THEY EXEMPLIFY CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IN THEIR DEDICATION TO THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.**

**WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION  
OF THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS:**

L Aitken  
D Armstrong  
S Bezaire  
A Bondy  
L Buchanan  
J Cale  
V Candow  
S Clark  
W Clark  
D Crook  
J De Ferrari  
A Doherty  
E Doherty  
S Dorion  
M Gillies  
E Gobrail  
J Good  
A Haley

L Lassaline  
K Leddy  
J Loewen  
D Lyndon  
P May  
C McWhinney  
V Monforton  
V Parent  
K Poulter  
S Prouse  
E Sleightholm  
L Stanley  
B Teichert  
K Wade  
K Webb  
M Webb



**School Advisory Council  
Meeting  
Reminder**

**Monday January 9, 2006  
7:00 p.m.**

**HURON COUNTY HEALTH UNIT**

The Huron County Health Unit will be at St. Mary's School on January 18, 2006 to give the second round of Flu Shots to students under 9 years of age and to the students who missed having their needle in December.

**DENTAL SCREENING**

**March 7, 2006  
JK, 2, 4, 6, 8**

**March 8, 2006  
Kdgn. B and absentees**

**French Story Hour**

Come and help raise \$2,500 for French resources at the Goderich Public Library. Grades K-4 please register to attend the 6 week Story Hour with Suzane Dorion 524-6244. Older grades with French can register to help.

Dates are January 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11, 18 at the Goderich Public Library  
10:30—11:30 a.m.

**FAMILY SKATING**

CPF invites you to come and skate with your family on January 14 from 2:00—3:00 p.m. at the old Arena. Hot chocolate and cookies will be for sale. Free will donation accepted.