



St. Mary's School
Goderich

St. Mary's School News

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LITERACY AND NUMERACY

We have recently received the results of our Grade 3 and 6 testing from the Education Quality and Accountability Office. **We are pleased to announce that out of six areas reported (reading, writing and mathematics in both grades) – our school showed significant improvement in five of those areas.** In most areas, our rate of improvement outstretched the Board's rate of improvement and the Province's rate of improvement. **These results represent the best results we have had since testing began in 2001.** In all but one area we have exceeded the Province's overall achievement. This improvement is a tribute to our students, staff and parent community. All have worked hard to give our students the same advantages that other students in other jurisdictions have demonstrated through testing.

QUICK FACTS

Full EQAO data can be reviewed by the public at www.eqao.com.

The percentage of grade 6 students that reached the provincial standard (Level 3 performance) in reading, writing and mathematics improved by 33% in reading, 25% in writing and 32% in mathematics. In summary, 75% of our grade 6 students have reached the provincial standard for reading, 67% of them reached the standard for writing and 67% reached the standard for mathematics.

The percentage of grade 3 students that reached the provincial standard (Level 3 performance) in reading, writing and mathematics improved by 26% in reading, and 3% in mathematics. Our results in writing declined by 13% from last year but were the second highest since testing began. In summary, 74% of our grade 3 students have reached the provincial standard for reading, 48% of them reached the standard for writing and 67% reached the standard for mathematics.

IMPROVEMENT NOTES

The 2005 – 2006 School Improvement Plan will continue to have as its focus – language literacy, mathematics, assessment/evaluation and faith formation. With respect to language literacy – we will redouble our efforts with respect to improvement of writing skills and continue the course on improving instructional strategies related to reading. In mathematics, staff will continue to implement the Nelson mathematics program with attention paid to instructional strategies that improve student learning.

REPORT ON THE HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD'S CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

This year, revisions were made to the list of sports that the Board was prepared to endorse for tournament play during the instructional day. The Board has reduced the overall number of varsity athletics that it will support. The primary considerations for selecting athletics programs was to maximize the amount of instructional time in schools and to support those programs that were closely related to the elementary curriculum. The Board also felt that zone tournaments were an unnecessary step in determining district champions and were replaced with tournaments that are organized according to the size of the school. Finally, those sports that were not supported system-wide in the past, were the first to be selected for reduction.

VISITING THE SCHOOL?

WELCOME!

PLEASE SIGN THE VISITOR LOG EVERY TIME YOU VISIT THE SCHOOL. REPORT TO THE MAIN OFFICE.

Snow Days?

For up-to-the-minute information about school bus delays and cancellations – visit our website – check the “Alerts” heading for the link “School and Bus” or bookmark this website:

<http://www2.hpcdsb.edu.on.ca/delayscancellations>

Information can be heard on local radio ... such as
CKNX FM 102

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The internationally acclaimed AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR will be appearing at Knox Presbyterian Church, Goderich (524-7512) on Wednesday, November 9, at 7 p.m. This is a group of 26 children ages 5—12, selected from those most needy in Africa. Audiences are treated to a wide variety of songs accompanied by drums and ethnic instrumentation, including well-loved children's songs, gospel melodies and lively spirituals. Free will offering.

www.africanchildrenschoir.com

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH HALLOWEEN DANCE

When: Friday, October 28th, 2005
Where: MacKay Hall (North Street)
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Cost: \$4.00
Who: Grades 6,7 and 8 are welcome to attend

Refreshments/Door Prizes

Costumes Optional



SCHOOL COUNCIL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

**Building Positive
Parent Involvement
In Our Schools**

Saturday, November 12, 2005
St. Michael Catholic Secondary School
240 Oakdale Avenue, Stratford

READING TIP

Reading should be a family activity...it is important that time be set aside each night for reading...parents should model this behaviour...also, consider journal writing or diaries as a way of encouraging prayerful reflection and writing each night..



LEARN TO READ: A PARENT'S HELPING YOUR CHILD GUIDE

AVAILABLE AT

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/brochure/earlyreading/index.html>

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

Congratulations to the St. Mary's Spartan Cross Country Team. Last Thursday was our System Meet and out of 16 schools in Huron and Perth our school came second overall. Well done athletes. Each and every one of you contributed to our overall placing and Madame Lambert is very proud of all the runners.

Here are some individual and divisional highlights from the meet.

Boys 8 and under:
Jamie H., John D. Division Competition 2nd.

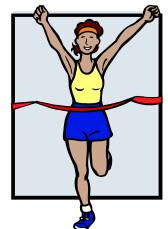
Girls 9—10
Jordan M., Division Competition 4th.

Boys 9—10
Jason H., Jeff G. Division Competition 2nd.

Girls 11—12
Julia H., Ali F.

Boys 11—12
Jacob R., Stephen L., Simon F.,
Division Competition 1st.

Boys 13
Nathan B., Tyler M. Division Competition 1st.



FLU SEASON

The fall season is here and the flu season is just around the corner. You and your loved ones can reduce the risk of getting the flu simply by getting a free flu shot. It's available to anyone aged six months or older, who lives, works or attends school in Ontario. It's as easy as booking an appointment with your family doctor or visiting a local flu clinic.

The influenza virus is very infectious and is spread from person to person mainly by droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. In some cases, the flu can be spread when an infected person touches a surface like a doorknob, a countertop or a telephone. That same virus can spread if anyone touches these objects and then proceeds to touch his or her mouth, nose or eyes.

Flu symptoms that children might experience include earaches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, runny eyes and stuffy nose, fever, chills, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, extreme weakness and fatigue. When treating the flu, get plenty of rest and drink lots of liquids.

Handwashing, when done correctly, is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Follow these four simple steps to keep hands clean:

- **Wet your hands with warm running water.**
- **Add soap, and rub your hands together, making a soapy lather. Do this away from the running water for at least 15 seconds, and do not wash the lather away. Wash the front and back of your hands, as well as between your fingers and under your nails.**
- **Dry hands thoroughly with a clean towel.**
- **Wash your hands as described above at least 5 times a day.**

There is more to handwashing than you think. By rubbing your hands vigorously with soapy water, you pull the dirt and the oily soils free from your skin. The soap lather suspends both the dirt and germs trapped inside then gets quickly washed away.

St. Mary's School Flu Clinic is December 2, 2005





CALLING ALL 3 YEAR OLDS! KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION!!

A new initiative involving Junior and Senior Kindergarten registration is being held this fall for children who will begin or *are considering* kindergarten in September, 2006 (Children who are 3 years of age by December 31, 2005 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten registration and children who are 4 years of age by December 31, 2005 are eligible for Senior Kindergarten). In an effort to ensure all children begin school with the best opportunity to be successful, this initiative includes a Nipissing developmental screen done with a trained professional and the parent. This screen allows the parent to know where their children are on the developmental scale, and enables the professionals to inform parents about local agencies that might be of service for their child.

Parents of three year olds who are not considering registration for Junior Kindergarten are very welcome to attend this event.

Key partners of this new initiative include the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board, Avon Maitland District School Board, local health units, local libraries, smallTALK, Ontario Early Years, Huron County Child Abuse Prevention Committee, Huron Perth Resource Consultant Program, Huron Perth Centre (0 – 6 Program) and CPRI Home Visiting Program for Infants.

Children and their parents/guardians from St. Mary's, Goderich are invited to the initial registration from 9:00 – 11:45 a.m. on November 7, 2005.

Please call St. Mary's School, Goderich, to receive a registration package and to inform us that your child will be attending the registration event as soon as possible.

We look forward to meeting you and your child to celebrate as they begin their academic journey.