

Chaplain's Corner.....

"To Love and To Serve" (*"Amare et Servire"*) is the proud motto of St. Mary CSS. It is our rallying cry, our mission statement, and our vocation. It stands an expression of intent and the Christian call to service heard at many a grade-level assembly and homeroom mass. "To Love and To Serve" is, indeed, our motto, one which is seen not only on the walls of our classrooms but is inscribed in our minds and hearts and made visible through the hard work and dedication of St. Mary staff and students.

Chaplaincy is blessed with many wonderful opportunities whereby we are able to love and serve the St. Mary community. School-wide masses and days of worship are occasions where we are afforded the chance to come together and share in our communal adoration and dedication to Christ while celebrating the incredible diversity and uniqueness of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God.

In particular, the great success of this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive stands as a testament to the generosity of St. Mary students and parents who stand in solidarity with those less fortunate within our own community.

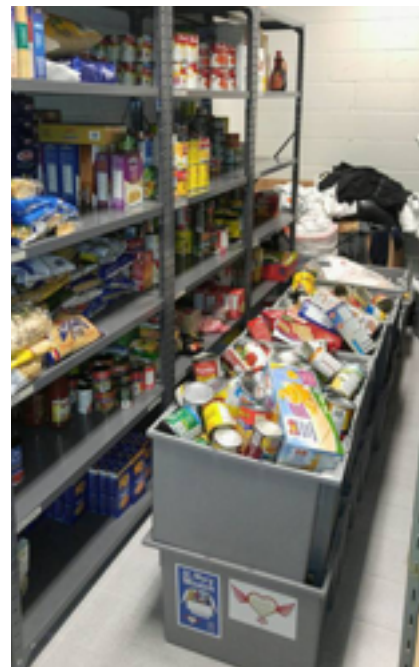
Chaplaincy welcomes opportunities to engage in one-on-one conversations with students and offer spiritual guidance, support, and, if needed, connections with outside agencies. Chaplaincy door is open to all members of the St. Mary community – staff, students, and families.

Our Retreat Leaders truly are the embodiment of "To Love and To Serve". This group of almost 100 students and several staff members who work tirelessly to support our community and the community at large each and every day. Their impact is made possible in large part to the efforts of twelve dedicated senior students who serve as the Retreat Leader "Core". The Core and the Chaplain meet on a weekly basis to discuss their vision for our school and initiatives which are planned, after which Core retreat leaders venture forth and share that information with those which comprise their small group, called a "Colour Group". It is modelled after how in the early church small groups met weekly to help each other, which became a movement.

The excellent work done by St. Mary Retreat Leaders is only made possible through the synergy of the Core and their Colour Group; the motivation and enthusiasm exuded by these senior leaders inspires not only the remaining Retreat Leaders but indeed the entire St. Mary Community to look beyond themselves and seek opportunities to show compassion and love.

As the semester continues and the holiday season approaches, I encourage all of you to seek such opportunities, the ones that fill your soul with gratitude, so we may all marvel in our many blessings.

***Yours in faith,
Ms. Spiers for Mr. Valookaran***



St. Mary Newsletter

Vol: #1
November, 2017
St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Community Update
stmary.dcdsb.ca

News From The Principal.....

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others". – Mahatama Gandhi

We are kicking this year off celebrating our junior girl's basketball team winning the LOSSA championship in 2016. They are now playing senior and sit at .500 for the season. We are a young team and expect the girls to hit their stride in their senior year. Our sports teams are well into their season and we hope for great success from our teams. Our Arts department are excited for this year's musical and proudly present Mary Poppins. Students and staff have been working long and hard to prepare a wonderful show, so mark your calendars and come out and be thoroughly entertained. Our retreat leaders spent 3 days at Camp Mary Ward in Penataguishene. There they prayed, meditated, and participated in team building activities. They also made big plans for our school year around social justice activities and planning for grade nine and ten retreats. Activities for hurricane and flood relief are well under way in hopes of sending much needed resources to aid in their recovery. This year our school board has designated this year as a Year of Service. This fits well with our motto and spirit as St. Mary have always been actively involved in service.

October was FNMI month and we had prayers, displays and guest speakers to highlight the experience of our Indigenous People and the effects of Residential Schools. We had an exciting and encouraging opportunity for 30 of our students. These students attended a two-day seminar on race and racism. They will then educate and influence the rest of our students through presentations in the classrooms. Our Christmas drive is coming so please plan to support the homeroom effort. One way is to ensure your child has paid for non-uniform days. This money is used to support our St. Mary families and other charities throughout the year. We hope you have an exciting and optimal learning year.

***Yours in Catholic Education,
Mr. Michael O'Brien***



**Junior Girls Basketball Team 2016-17
LOSSA Champions**

Deja Allison
Reesa Barrett
Shaleah Colaire
Asia Dias
Kristina Floras-Jurukovski
Faith Holmes
Daniella Martins
Maya Massina
Hassana McBurnie
Mikaela Naval
Vaishnav Sriskantharajah
Daniela Todorov
Emily Weightman

NEWSLETTER DESIGNED BY: Mr. Joel Pisani

NEWSLETTER EDITED BY: Ms. Sicchia

NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY: The Business SHSM Team

Fine Arts Department News

The Arts Department is in full gear with our Musical “Mary Poppins” almost ready for the opening on the evening of Thursday November 23rd, our Vocal and Instrumental concerts scheduled in December and major fundraisers already launched, our Media students beginning their film fest planning, our Dancers getting ready for their upcoming competitive season and post Christmas showcase, and our Visual and Photo students having already completed workshops and attended field trips... and their exhibits are still to come!

Drama and Musical Theatre

One of the most popular Disney movies of all time is guaranteed to capture your heart as our musical theatre students dance and sing their way into the beloved characters from Mary Poppins. The whole family will delight in the sweet story of Mary Poppin, the ‘practically perfect’ nanny who arrives at the doorstep of the Banks family. Anything can happen as Mary uses a combination of magic and common sense to teach the family how to value each one again and to find that silver lining in even difficult situations. Mary Poppins, with direction and choreography by Ms. Cortnie Freeman, vocal direction by Ms. Janet Yukich and Technical Production by Mr. Trevor Small, will open Thursday night, November 23: Show times Thursday and Friday at 7pm and Saturday matinee at 2pm. Don’t miss our Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious show!!

Dance

The Dance program at St. Mary is in full force this year. Ms. Freeman and her competitive dance teams are gearing up for competitions in the new year while her dance classes are preparing for their Dance Showcase in January. Excitement is in the air and the dancers can not wait to showcase all of their hard work. Make sure to grab your tickets for the Showcase fast in the New Year—tickets and seating are first come, first serve and the Dance Showcase is always a sold out event!!

Visual Arts

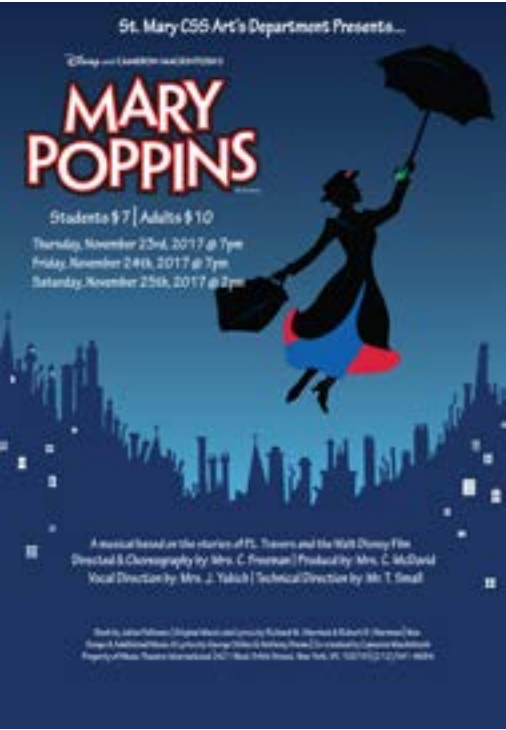
In early October, Ms. McDavid’s grade 12 Visual Arts and Mr. Pisani’s grade 12 Media Arts students attended a street art workshop at the community outreach studio “The Livingroom”; students worked with a youth case counsellor and artist exploring urban art techniques and the importance of making positive social statement through street art. St. Mary students worked creatively and diligently throughout the workshop and donated time and materials to the studio to benefit Oshawa street youth.

On November 8th the Interior Design and Fashion Design students attended a textile and drapery workshop at the FabricLand instructional classroom in Whitby. Students learned the many characteristics and uses of various textiles as well as window dressage and fashion drapery as part of their grade 11 design course. Interior Design students completed their 3D printed kitchens using auto-cad software and the new 3D printer in the Learning Common lab.

Ms. McDavid’s Senior Visual Art students and Art History students will also be attending a figure sketching workshop and curatorial certification at the Whitby Station Gallery on November 23rd, an opportunity to develop their portfolio for post-secondary admissions: the Arts and Culture SHSM students will receive their curatorial certification at this time as well.

Media Arts

Students are working away on their production logos and preparing for their pitch presentations for their films. Watch for upcoming information on our student film fest on February 12th!!



Cooperative Education Department News

“Your talent is God’s gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.” - Leo Buscaglia

Planning a pathway toward an educational goal should be focused, yet flexible. It involves the transition from grade-to-grade and to life after high school towards one of the post-secondary destinations of: Apprenticeship, College, Community Living, University or the Workplace.

All students are encouraged to utilize Career Cruising to develop their Individual Pathways Plan. Career Cruising can be used for career exploration, post-secondary research, employment skill guidance (i.e., resume building). Access to Career Cruising is from the St. Mary homepage.

A Cooperative Education program allows students to participate in valuable learning experiences that help prepare them for the next stage of their lives. It further helps students develop a plan that will ultimately assist them in achieving their academic and experiential learning goals and to find and enjoy meaningful work.

Cooperative Education students are engaged through meaningful experiences which allow them to discover who they are, explore opportunities, pursue their passions and design personal pathways to success.

We are extremely appreciative of local employers who are our partners in education. They foster our students in opportunities that provide a rich learning experience that are anchored in the Ontario curriculum. This semester students are engaged in workplace experiential learning at:

Altona Forest P.S., Amberlea Animal Hospital, Bayview Heights P.S., Beg Brothers Realty, Boyer GM, Caryl Baker Visage, Chartwell Parkway, City of Pickering, Complete Performance Centre, EduKids – Glenanna, EduKids-St Paul’s on the Hill, Father Fenelon C.S., Goodlife – Liverpool, Jemm Truck & Trailer, Lifemark Physio, Lone Star Texas Grill, McEachnie Funeral Home, Merle Norman, MP Jennifer O’Connell, My TLC Clinic, Rouge Valley Sports Injury & Wellness, Ontario Early Years Centre, Orchard Villa Long Term Care, Proforma Promotional Products, PTC Administration Offices, PTC Security, Revera Bay Ridges, Royal LePage Connect Realty, Trade Secrets, Triple A Transmission, Shoppers Drug Mart Steeple Hill, Somcan, Stephens Small Engine

Please see the **St. Mary Co-op Department website** [stmary.dcdsb.ca > Departments > Co-op] or call one of the Cooperative Education Teachers for more information.

Ms. B. Hunter x.56032
Ms. M. Wilson-Clark x.56033

Vimy Ridge Trip 2017

For 35 students and 5 staff members of St. Mary Catholic Secondary School it was all those things and more because they did it together as a St. Mary family. We made the journey to Europe to remember those brave soldiers who gave their lives on the battlefields of Vimy Ridge, Juno Beach and at Beaumont-Hamel. To all those on the trip it was the experience of being together in these amazing places, having the chance to laugh, learn and bond in a way we never would in our schools. It took learning to a new level and was an adventure none will ever forget. This trip was an excellent chance for us to pay our tribute to those who gave their lives for us, to see the sights of Amsterdam, Paris and London and to have a once in a lifetime adventure that none of us will ever forget.



Program Support/Library/ESL News

September was an exciting month as we began the school year in our newly renovated, re-branded Learning Commons. The mandate of the Learning Commons is to promote inquiry-based learning, collaboration, and new technologies, with an emphasis on preparing students for the future by exposing them to a variety of different ways to learn.



Our fantastic 21st century environment features 32 new computers, including 16 Mac computers, iPad and Chrome Book carts, a large multi-media room, a seminar room designed for collaborative inquiry, independent learning pods, curved book stacks surrounding a reading area, and much more!

Students have access to a hack lab with a 3D printer that allows them to design and create curriculum inspired models. We are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of our green screen to integrate more mixed and interactive media into student learning.

Services and programs available through our Learning Commons include Grade 9 Orientations, the Accelerated Reader Program, Academic Research Lessons, Web tool tutorials, Digital Citizenship Lessons, volunteer hours, partnering with the Pickering Public Library, and various other learning opportunities. Clubs that are run within the Learning Commons include our Writer's Club, Anime Club, and the White Pine Reading Club. We continue to explore the potential of this great new space and welcome the St. Mary community to offer suggestions and ideas to further enhance our Learning Commons.

In Program Support, the Life Skills Culinary class has been busy learning about Canada's Food Guide and preparing quick and nutritious meals and snacks. With Halloween fast approaching, we have made some themed snacks to enjoy like our pumpkin Rice Krispie treats! In keeping with our food and nutrition theme, we have also incorporated culinary ingredients into our artwork like using coloured macaroni to create mosaic pictures. As November approaches, students will be focusing on creating their class recipe books and baking in preparation for the Christmas Tea.

Program Support is open daily and is located in Room 130. We offer students a quiet place to work with one to one assistance available. This year's Program Support teachers include Ms. Singh-Charan (for Grade 9 students), Ms. De Lauretis (Grade 10), Mr. Murphy (Grade 11), Mr. Ing (Grade 12) and Ms. Hooftman (Curriculum Chair). Contact Ms. Hooftman at 905-420-7166 x56012 for more information.

Ms. Hooftman
Curriculum Chair



Fine Arts Department News Continued

Music Department

As always, the St. Mary Instrumental Music Department has started the year off with all cylinders running at full speed. We recently held our second annual Craft and Christmas Fair on November 4th and it was another huge success. Please mark your calendars for our 3rd Annual Fair to be held on November 3rd 2018!

We are excited to announce that our trip to Whistler and Vancouver to compete and participate in the Con Brio Music Festival has been approved and we will be travelling April 19th-24th 2018. Over 50 students will be participating in this trip and not only will they compete, but they will also have opportunity to work in smaller groups with world renowned musicians. The festival finishes off the weekend with a Massive Band performance where our students will play on stage with the 1200 others students participating at this festival. This will be an epic experience for our students.

We have a great Christmas Season lined up as well. Due to our large bands this year, and fire code regulations, we have had to move our concert to a two night event. You will have the opportunity to see the show either Wednesday December 6th or Thursday December 7th at 7pm in the St. Mary Café. Tickets will be \$5 and students can purchase from Mrs. Puccia or Mrs. Clarridge. Some St. Mary students will also be participating in Holy Redeemers Christmas Concert on December 10th.

Vocal Music

The Vocal Department is alive and well at St. Mary. The St. Mary singers began the year by singing their hearts out at the opening mass, and are now diligently learning music and choreography for the their Christmas concert titled "Christmas Glow"; the concert will be presented on Thursday December 14, 2017 in the Cafetorium. Mark your calendars and watch for tickets as our concert always sells out!

Our Vocal jazz group, of 15 girls, did a beautiful job singing at our Thanksgiving liturgy and are in rehearsals for Remembrance Day as well as their performance for the Christmas concert.

Our musicians continue to excel and I am looking forward to showcasing these talented singers throughout the year!

Arts & Culture SHSM

ARTS AND CULTURE SHSM IS ALIVE AND WELL AT ST. MARY! If you are interested in becoming a SHSM seal student in Arts and Culture, see Ms. McDavid in art room 161 over the lunches or after school at 3:00. Become part of a program that provides free certifications, industry sector trips and the ministry seal. SHSM grads receive recognition from post secondary programs that award SHSM students with their point system when taking admission into consideration!

Ms. McDavid
Curriculum Chair



REMINDERS

PA Day - Friday, November 17th
Christmas Break - December 25th to January 5th

Canadian & World Studies & Social Sciences Department News

Grade nine geography students explored the Geologic History of earth's formation with a focus on Canada's beginnings. This led us into looking at how Canada has taken shape and what evidence was left behind to understand our past. Students time-lined this process to see in detail what riches our planet has left us with and understand Canada's landform regions and our climate. Students investigated our natural resources that have been left behind and how day to day human interactions will help us to better understand the pressures we are putting on our planet. The grade 9 Geography classes also finished their mapping unit and are well on the way to becoming experts at geologic history. Students created a scale representation of a shopping mall and the results were outstanding. Some created 3D models that were great! Up next will be the mock UN meetings.

Grade ten civics students worked hard in completing their Civics Big Ideas Talks. The Civics Big Ideas activity asks students to think of a Big Idea that would make their community or world a better place. Students can join the St Mary TED Ed Club (after school group) to continue working and developing their Big Idea(s) after completing their Civics course. The TED Ed club meets every Tuesday in room 239 at 3pm. Students interested should see Mr. Zimmer.

The grade ten history students completed their Unit One study of World War One and the 1920s. History students were given a rich task to help them examine the social, economic and political changes that Canada experienced between 1914-1929. Students are presented with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of these impacts through Multiple Intelligences. Paintings, models, interviews, poetry, artistic representations, posters, historical writing, multi-media and skits are some of the many ways students expressed their knowledge and understanding of this time period. We are proud of our history students' hard work and successful accounts of Canadian life during this era.

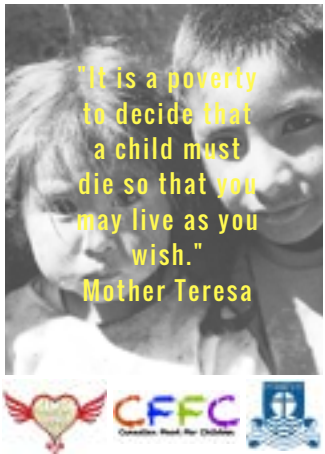
The CWS/SS department is pleased to welcome back to St. Mary guest speaker and Holocaust survivor Elly Gotz. In studying the Holocaust, Grade 10 History students learn of the atrocities that develop from discrimination and intolerance. We are fortunate that he will be returning on December 1st to speak during period one to all our history students.

On October 16th the Department of CWS hosted the first of its student speaker series when it welcomed Ingenious speaker, and TEDxStMary alumni, Eddy Robinson to speak with CWS students. Eddy spoke to the students about issues ranging from Reconciliation to modern Indigenous identity. Eddy's talk to the 300 grades 10-12 students was followed by a more intimate conversations with the students in Mr. Zimmer and Mr. Cecillion's senior history classes and members of the St. Mary Indigenous committee. This experience allowed students to learn more about this important part of the Canadian story as well as have an opportunity to meet with one of Canada's most important voices on Indigenous culture.

Eddy's talk was part of our school's promotion of Indigenous culture to our students led by Ms. O'Leary and Ms. Hudson. Here's the link of Eddy's recent TED Talk at the recent TEDxStMary conference: (https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=eddy+robinson+tedx+talk).

The grade eleven Introduction to Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology (HSP3M) program organized guest speakers visiting from organizations like TAMI. A special guest from The Covenant House came to our social science classes to speak about Trafficking. Two guest speakers came to visit the gr.12 Families in Canada students. The speaker from Denise House spoke about violence against women and the special guest from The Covenant House spoke about Reality Check (Homelessness). The grade eleven students in the Dual Credit (HPW3D) Child Development course will be visiting Durham College and experience a classroom and to further develop and plan their pathway. Students who successfully complete this high school dual credit will also earn a college credit for students pursuing the social work field.

Our food and nutrition classes are also very busy. Students completed a new invention activity whereby he/she created a new kitchen gadget like innovative mugs and cutting boards. Students also visited Kensington Market on October 27 to experience different foods at one of Toronto's most famous areas.



Science Department News

SCIENCE CLINIC:

Every Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 students have the opportunity to attend science clinic (room 265). This clinic is the perfect place to ask teachers for extra help, work on homework and assignments or to make up missed labs. Each week there are teacher volunteers who teach all grade levels and streams in the science department. Many students find that regular weekly attendance helps them to improve their understanding and achievement.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF GRADE 11 Students:

The Ontario Science Centre Science School offers students a chance to earn their Grade 12 science and math credits and prepare for university in a unique setting. Though they need to be academically strong, students don't need to have the very highest grades to attend this program. They do, however, need a love of science, a desire to learn, and a real interest in interacting with people.

Students choose three of the following S.T.E.M. courses:

- Biology SBI4U
- Chemistry SCH4U
- Physics SPH4U
- Advanced Functions MHF4U (First Semester ONLY)
- Calculus and Vectors MCV4U (Second Semester ONLY)

See the Science Centre website for more information and application details.

Cool Science

Ms. Gallagher's science classes have been spending some time outdoors this beautiful Fall. They raised butterflies in their classroom from cocoon to butterfly and then released them into an appropriate habitat. In addition, they have been conducting a habitat study. This is an excellent way for students to understand and improve our world.



Black History Student Committee

The St. Mary CSS's Black History Student Committee (B.H.S.C.) has already started with over thirty students. The B.H.S.C. meet every Tuesday in room 238 at 3pm. Students in this team have already began discussions about our theme for this year and planning special events including those for the next Black History Month. In the past few years, our student leaders successfully organized numerous activities and events (ie. Morning announcements, music playlists, the Taste of Black Culture food event, a Black History Month Assembly, a school dance with Student Council, etc) to educate, inspire and celebrate Black culture. New students are welcome!

Thanks,
Your BHSC and Teacher Supervisors (Mr. Chadee, Ms. Flynn, Mr. Moriah, Mr. Zimmer & Mr. Stanesic)



Department of English & Modern Languages.....

The department of English and Modern Languages continues to set direction and improve the instructional program at St. Mary. We do this primarily by setting attainable goals grounded in data and best practices. Through these goals we aim to support students embody excellence and equity by embracing the catholic graduate expectations. I would like to welcome the following teachers in and back to the department: Mr. C. Lamont (in for Mme. Bankley), Ms. A. Coffey (in for Ms. M. Doucette) and Mr. T. Kelly.

Our students in the Advanced Placement program in English participated in some experiential learning in October by taking in avant-garde theatre in downtown Toronto at the Theatre Centre. The Play, Flashing Lights, created and performed by the Bad New Days Company, is a multi-media and dramatic performance piece about our digital lives, and how technology affects persons and society. Mr. P. Ellsworth, Mr. J. Longo, Mr. J. Neundorf and Ms. S. Walton took students currently enrolled in the Grades 9, 10 and 11 AP English program and a fantastic learning experience was had by all!

Our Grade 12 FSL students were also given experiential learning opportunities this semester. Under the guidance and supervision of Mme. Zeenaeme, senior French students were exposed to a workshop given by Glendon College, York University and Ottawa University.

Our department has also made great strides in addressing student learning needs in literacy and numeracy. We do so through a collaborative inquiry approach to lesson and unit planning, but also through in-service from experts such as consultants in the field of language and mathematics. The literacy committee, for example, is involved in a board project that focuses on closing learning gaps in grades 7-10. Ms. J. Carnovale, Mr. J. Longo, Ms. L. Sprung and VP Ms. M. O'Reilly are currently involved in this working group. The department continues to improve its ability to address needs in these areas through professional development and building capacity through shared learning.

Thank you to all parents and guardians whom continue to support their children be the best version of themselves everyday here at St. Mary. All the best and may God bless everyone!

Mr. Longo
Curriculum Chair

Health and Physical Education Department.....

Grade 9 Day
On September 15th Ms. Smith's "Health For Life Class" (PPZ 30) alongside with Ms. Teasdale's Grade 10 Fitness classes (PAF 20) organized an AMAZING day of fun, and creative team building activities that all grade 9's participated in. With the help of our outstanding retreat leaders; who mentored our grade 9 homerooms throughout the course of the day and introduced them to the "Spirit of St. Mary". This day allows for all student's to participate in a non-intimidating atmosphere while engaging with their grade 9 peers; and allows them to jump in and become a part of our COMMUNITY!

What's Happening?
Our Fall Sports teams are well under way and we wish them all luck in their upcoming season!

• Boys Volleyball	• Tennis	• Cross Country	• Football
• Girls Softball	• Boys Soccer	• Golf	• Girls Basketball

September 29th, 2017 - Annual Bryan Bonser Memorial Elementary School Volleyball Tournament

- 8 Elementary feeder schools of St. Mary join in a day of fun through sport
- Special thanks to our returning JR & SR Girls St. Mary Volleyball teams for hosting and organizing a memorable event!

Ms. Teasdale
Curriculum Chair

C.W.S.S.S. News Continued.....

The law classes at St. Mary have been busy studying the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Students looked at some fascinating cases and visited the Superior Courts to watch the law in action on November 6, 2017. Furthermore, St. Mary's Law Club is excited about several upcoming events that include their participation in the annual Kelly Cup competition. In November, students will be preparing for their crime scene enactments where they stage and investigate crime scenes to gather evidence and determine who is at fault. They will also have the opportunity to explore career pathways with a variety of guest speakers from legal backgrounds including a representative from the Civil Liberties Association, law enforcement from the DRPS Canine Unit, a probation and parole officer, and a criminal lawyer.

Senior students of the Archaeology and Indigenous Studies (IDC4U) class participated in an archaeological excavation on October 21st, which happened to be International Archaeology Day! The excavation is part of the "Save the Evidence Campaign" at the Woodland Cultural Centre, part of the Six Nations Reserve in Brantford, Ontario. The purpose of the excavation was to document the grounds and buildings of the Mohawk Institute, the longest running Residential School in Canadian history (1828-1970). While the excavation itself will provide the class with the opportunity to understand how and why archaeologists do what they do, it will also provide students with the chance to be a part of education and healing as outlined in the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to witness, and understand first hand, the legacy of Residential schools and their lasting impact on the Indigenous communities across Canada. Follow our department on twitter: **StMaryCWS Dept.** Best wishes to our CWS/SS students for a successful semester.

Mr. Stanesic
Curriculum Chair



Non-Profit SHSM Team.....

St. Mary's Non-profit specialist high skills major (NPSHSM) has entered in its fifth year. This SHSM fits in perfectly with our Catholic Faith and its emphasis on the social justice teachings. We currently have 11 and 12 students in this program who want to make a difference by exploring a career in the charitable and/or non-profit sector. NPSHSM students have access to Reach Ahead opportunities (ie. field trips to Development and Peace, Canadian Jesuits International, etc), Experiential Learning activities (ie. Canadian Food For Children, St.Mary TEDx Conference, etc) and important certifications (ie. WHIMIS, First Aid/CPR – Level C, Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Training created by the Rotman School of Management, Group Dynamics, Ethical Understanding etc)

The NPHSM program opened the St. Mary Mission Community Outreach Room a few years ago. Families in need can contact our school's Main Office, Guidance or our Chaplain to access food, etc. Each homeroom class was given special Mission grey bins to help with our 3 major food drives (Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter) and to collect donations of canned goods between the food drives for the St. Mary Mission Room. Our Mission Room has also partnered with the new Mission Room at Msgr Pereyma CSS in Oshawa. One of our major goals this year is to bring donations (ie. Gently used clothing, glasses, bikes, etc... but no electronics or no books) to Canadian Food For Children (CFC). Students can bring donations to room 202 or see Mr. Loudfoot, Mr. Cecillon or Mr. Stanesic. St. Mary NPSHSM students bring the donations to the C.F.C.'s Warehouse in Etobicoke, a few times a year where they load the items into special bins which are sent to countries in need.

Whether in the fields of art, culture, education, the environment, education, healthcare, social development, numerous career paths are available to students who share the same vision in being a difference maker in their community. St. Mary CSS's NPSHSM focuses on faith and leadership formation in striving to make a positive difference in our school community and internationally. We have just a few spots left for interested grade 11 students, and those pupils interested should go to room 238 for more information.

J. Stanesic Lead Teacher of NPSHSM

Math Department News

Success in Math

Math anxiety is one of the most frustrating obstacles to math success. One key to overcoming frustration is to practice and seek extra help the instant you realize you are having trouble understanding a concept. Be determined and don't ever give up.

Jerry Brodkey, Ph. D., has developed a list of recommendations for students to perform well in math.

1. Do all of the homework. Don't ever think of homework as a choice. It's the most important way that students practice and master the concepts taught in class.
2. Fight not to miss class. What students do today builds towards tomorrow. So if there's an optional appointment to be made, take care not to schedule it during math.
3. Find a friend to be your study partner. Building positive relationship is necessary to thrive.
4. Establish a good relationship with the teacher. Ask questions that show you're paying attention. Teachers respond best to students who show that they care about the class.
5. Analyze and understand every mistake. It's important to fix mistakes and understand why they were made. Then take time to figure out how to do it right.
6. Get help fast. Straighten out misunderstandings before they start to snowball.
7. Don't swallow your questions. Questions are the vehicle by which we learn. Asking good questions is a lifelong skill, and school is a safe place to practice.
8. Basic skills are essential. Quick: what's 9 times 7? The multiplication tables are the basis for most high school math problems. Make flash cards and practice, practice, practice.
9. Algebra must be mastered. Algebra is crucial to later math courses. Students must master skills like solving systems of equations, graphing, slope, and simplification of radicals.
10. Understand what the calculator is doing. It's not enough to know how to use the calculator; students need to know what the answer means. They should ask themselves what the calculator is doing for them, and always analyze the calculator's answer.

Doing the best in mathematics will assist in maximizing students' options for the future.

Skill Testing Quiz

Below is the link to assist students to see the careers that require math as their fundamental knowledge and to figure out what they could do as an adult according to who they are, what they like to do, and what they do best.

<http://thefunworks.edc.org/SPTUI--FunWorks/funworks/accessible/home.php>

Math Help

Math teachers are here to help students to be successful. Students are welcome to come to any of our math office hours for help. Our math office hours are as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
AM 8:15-8:45	Mrs. Barabas Room 212	Ms. Clayton Room 211	
1 st Lunch	Mr. MacIsaac Room 131	Mrs. Chang/ Mr. Petryshyn Room 213	
2 nd Lunch	Mr. Milan/ Mrs. Salomone Room 235	Mrs. Shea-Osborn Room 210	Mr. Barron Room 166
3 rd Lunch	Ms. Poon Portable 2	Mrs. Reynolds Room 209	
PM 3:15-3:45		Mrs. Ladrillo Room 125	



Remembrance Day at St. Mary

One Hundred Years ago, On April 9th, 1917, Canada won its most celebrated battle during World War One. Vimy Ridge marked a turning point in the war and a turning point in Canada's history. Vimy Ridge was a major point to control along the Western Front because it allowed those that held it a view of the entire area. Both the French and British forces tried to take back this point from Germany and both failed. The Canadians were called upon to spearhead the attack. Canadian General Arthur Currie spent months planning the attack. Going over every detail to ensure that the victory would be a success. Finally in the early hours of April 9th, 10000 Canadians, fighting together for the first time, advanced on the German fortifications and with great speed, and the assistance of British and Moroccan troops, captured the enemies position. One soldier wrote of the battle: "The resounding victory, the first in Britain's two and a half years of war, gave every man a feeling of pride, the more so because the long battle line to our right had failed. A national spirit was born, and now to be British was not enough: we were Canadian and could do a good job of padding our own course."

It is felt by many that Vimy Ridge is the place where Canada started to get a sense of who it was and began the process of evolution to the country we all live in today. What does being a Canadian mean to you?

For one Canadian woman serving her country meant everything. 19 year old Grace MacPhearson was a volunteer Red Cross ambulance driver during WWI. Praised for remaining calm under pressure, she was responsible for bringing many soldiers to safety despite bombings and horrific road conditions. Grace was at the battle of Vimy Ridge and was often the face wounded soldiers saw as they were being taken for medical treatment. She described the Vimy wounded as "a very sorry looking bunch." Still, she never allowed their disabled condition or their depressed frame of mind to dissuade her from her work.

If a passenger groaned from the back of the ambulance, Grace would say: "You cut that out! Nobody's riding in my ambulance moaning like that." "Oh, I got a leg off," he might say. "Look, I bashed my thumb today," she'd respond, trying to distract him from self pity. She refused to allow herself to express any sympathy openly, for the patient's sake and for her own sanity under those stressful conditions.

Whether a form of self-defence or just her inherent determination, Grace MacPherson's sometimes tough demeanour served her well. For a year and a half she had served King and Empire for about 14 shillings, or \$1.00 a week. But serving as a Red Cross ambulance driver was never really about pay or recognition. "I was just proud of the 'Canada' flash on my shoulder."

How do you give back to all Canada has given you? Its more than waving a flag or wearing a jersey or even cheering a hockey team during the Olympics. How many of you think about what this country has given you. This country is one of freedoms. The Freedom to say what you want without the fear of being killed. The Freedom to be whom you want. Canada is not perfect, far from it, but we are a family. What Canadian should be was displayed on a ridge that rises above the Village of Vimy. Being Canadian is not about wearing a Maple Leaf. Being Canadian is a feeling of pride, its courage to stand up for what we believe in, it is honour. It is being a hero when called upon. It being like Grace MacPhearson and showing compassion and giving hope to those in need. To be Canadian is to love and to serve. This is how the values of those fallen soldiers live on in us. It is everything we wear a poppy for. It is everything worth dying for. And for this why remember.

Mr. Zimmer
CWS Teacher



News From Guidance

Career Cruising - More than a website to select high school courses

We are hoping that students and their parents will understand that this complete career planning website offers many opportunities for students to explore personal interests, strengths and career options. Students can access Career Cruising by going to <http://stmary.dcdsb.ca> and clicking on the Career Cruising icon. Each student has a unique username and password. Their username is their pupil # (found at the top of their timetable) and the password (was chosen by the student last year). If a student does not remember either, they can click on "Forgot my username &/or password" and they will be sent an email. Students who are interested in the Specialist High School Majors programs available at St. Mary can now find the details of each SHSM program on Career Cruising.

Career Cruising has also turned out to be an excellent tool for our Guidance Department to send messages out to our students. Some messages sent this year to specific grades or students included information on volunteering, post-secondary fair, and leadership opportunities. We will be using Career Cruising to communicate important post-secondary information and timelines to our grade 12 students this year. Students who have trouble logging into this site are asked to see their guidance counsellor.

Career Cruising – Parent Portal

Career Cruising is used by St. Mary students to select their high school courses on line. Besides this, it is an Internet-based career exploration and planning tool used by your son or daughter to explore career and college options and develop a career plan. Career Cruising can be accessed from school, from home, or wherever your son or daughter has access to the Internet. Features of the program include: Interest and Skills Assessment; Multimedia Interviews; College and University Information; Career Portfolio and Resume Builder.

Included with the Report Cards, each student should have received a letter containing all the information required to register for a Parent Account, if you had not registered last year. This will give parental access to much of their child's Career Portfolio.

Post-Secondary News

This fall, the Guidance Department held several workshops and presentations for our grade 12 students interested in post-secondary studies next year. Students in grade 12 are reminded to review their Post-Secondary Newsletter which is now available on our school website.

St. Mary hosted its annual Post-Secondary Fair on October 12th. It was an extremely successful evening, with the participation of close to 40 schools and community partner! This year, we were excited to welcome out-of-province schools like McGill and UBC, St. FX and Dalhousie to name a few. Thank you for supporting this event. University Application workshops will be held in mid-November, and the College Application workshops will be taking place toward the end of November, along with our Apprenticeship Training workshop. Students are reminded to check the lists (posted in Grade 12 homerooms and in the showcase outside Guidance) for their assigned workshops. Please report any additions and/or omissions to Guidance. We were happy to host the U.S. College Fair during the month of November for any student interested in studying in the U.S.

Community Service Hours and/or Job Seeking

Is your child looking for a job, volunteer work, or leadership opportunities? The guidance staff can point him/her in the right direction. Students looking for volunteer experiences are encouraged to visit the site: www.volunteerdurham.net, where they will find many opportunities in the Durham Region. Students are also encouraged to read all emails from the Guidance team, as there are many volunteer postings available through email. As well, students are welcome to peruse the Volunteer Binder and/or the Job Opportunities Binder just outside of the Guidance office and take with them any flyers or postings of interest.

Ms. Stanesic

Curriculum Chair

REMINDERS

Exams - January 24th to January 30th

Grad Photos - January 24th to February 1st

Math Department News Continued

Online Extra Math Resources

Math department website (stmary.dcdsb.ca > **Departments** > **Mathematics**) provides the information on all kinds of online extras for students and parents to use. Especially for grade 9 and 10 students, there are CERTIFIED online math teachers to tutor students from Sunday to Thursday 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. for FREE. (The dates are subjects to change. Verify with the online tutoring site.)

Math Contests

Math can be fun and interesting! Math contest/competition is intended to stimulate a love and enthusiasm for problem solving. Math department encourages all students to join us in this year's challenges together to grow the critical thinking and analytical thinking skills. Remember to sign up ONLINE or with any math teacher before the deadline. The upcoming contests are as follows:

1) Grade 12 Math League (6 mini contests of 30 min each) – Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 6, and March 20, 2018. Free of charge!

2) Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (2 1/2 hours) - Nov. 2, 2017

Note: Grade 11 and 12 students are invited to write it. \$15 / contestant before Oct. 10, 2017

3) Pascal (Gr. 9), Cayley (Gr. 10) and Fermat (Gr. 11) (60 min) - Feb. 27, 2017

Note: Grade 9, 10 and 11 students are invited to write it. \$6 / contestant before Feb 7, 2018

4) Grade 12 Euclid Contest (2 1/2 hours) - April 11, 2018

Note: Grade 11 and 12 students are invited to write it. \$17 / contestant before March 19, 2018

5) Fryer (Gr. 9), Galois (Gr. 10) and Hypatia (Gr. 11) (75 min) - April 12, 2018

Note: Grade 9, 10 and 11 students are invited to write it. \$11 / contestant before March 19, 2018

For more information on past contests, please follow the links below:

Grade 9 – 11 contests and Grade 12 Euclid contest: www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca

Grade 12 contests: www.mathleague.com and <http://math.ca/Competitions/COMC/>

Ms. Chang

Curriculum Chair

Catholic School Council Corner

On behalf of the St. Mary's Catholic School Council (CSC), we would like to welcome you all back for another exciting school year. We hope you and your child(ren) have had a great start to the fall semester.

As you may know the CSC is an advisory group made up of parents and staff, which provides advice and support to the principal and senior administrative staff on education matters that affect our students. The council is a vital part of our school community, whose key purpose is to improve overall student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education process to parents.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents that have volunteered to take part in this year's CSC executive. As part of their role, they will be actively involved in working on key school fundraising initiatives, such as our used uniform sales, as well as providing their input on school policies and initiatives. Parents are an integral part of our school community and we encourage you all to stay connected and involved. The CSC is a great way to do that and keep current on what's happening at our school.

We meet regularly throughout the school year and meetings are open to all parents. Please join us at our next meeting... everyone is welcome! More information about the council and this year's meeting dates can be found on our parent council page on the **school's webiste** - www.stmary.dcdsb.ca. Wishing you and your family a successful school year!

Beatrice Povo

Chair, Catholic School Council

From the Financial Desk.....

In May 2017 St. Mary CSS went live with the Cash on-line system. This new system allows parents to pay for Trips, Events, Sports, Gym Uniforms, and various Monarch wear, on line.

Since our go live date was so near the end of the school year, and all student purchases had been made, we waited until September 2017 to really start to push the registration. Since our launch, registration has been steady for the first 7 weeks of school with a registration rate of 60% of the student population! We held a contest for all the registrations that happened until the month of September. The first place prizes for all grades was a movie gift card for the student and Tim Horton's gift card for the parents, second place prize for all grades was a cafeteria certificate for the students and Tim Horton's card for the parents and third place prize for all grades was a cafeteria certificate for the students. A big thank you to all of the parents that registered in September and congratulations to our student winners pictured below.



It's still not too late. Don't be left out! If you have not already registered for Cash on-line, do so now. No more sending money with your child. It's fast and easy. All you need is your child's OEN number. This number can be found on your child's report cards or timetable. Register now by going to the St. Mary website and click on the Online School Purchases in the blue banner and follow the prompts to register. Some of the

upcoming events soon to be posted will include: Student Activity fees for the 2017/2018 year, Prom and Graduation to name a few.

Gail Symington
Financial Secretary

News From Religion.....

Thanks to the success of the new grade 12 M religion course, last year's core retreat leaders were given the time and the proper education needed to lay the groundwork for this year's new crop of retreat leaders. The course provided the platform upon which students could apply their knowledge of the Catholic Faith with actionable works of charity and social justice. The initiatives born from this course allowed the St. Mary community to attain the Premier's Award for Safe and Accepting Schools. This year's Retreat Leaders are already in the process of identifying needs and planning initiatives as a direct result of the leadership training that they enjoyed at the overnight Marygrove retreat! Inspired by this year's mandate to serve others, the retreat leaders have mobilized into specialized groups that act as the hands and feet of Christ in our world. International Outreach together with the Eco Club are organizing a fundraiser to raise money for those who are suffering from the devastating effects of the Caribbean hurricanes. The Alliance for Compassion has already made it their mission to collect shoeboxes full of the basic necessities for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth. The Safe and Caring Schools team is planning initiatives aimed at eliminating the stigma associated with learning disabilities, improving mental health and empowering students as they educate their peers about the realities and effects of racism in our school. The members of the Domestic Outreach group managed to hold one of the most successful food drives ever. There wasn't enough space in the mission room to hold it all! We have enough to support our own St. Mary community, Canadian Food for Children and enough to help Pereyma CSS start a mission room of their own! Service to the most vulnerable members of our community is one of the founding principles of Catholic education and is one of the most meaningful ways that we can live out the gospel values. The drive culminated with a Thanksgiving liturgy which gave thanks and praise to God for the charitable food items donated so generously by the St. Mary community.

Catia Minardi
Secondary School Teacher

Business Department News.....

We are pleased to announce that our Business Department has started a DECA chapter organization (Distributive Education Clubs of America). Our chapter is headed by two grade 12 students; Presidents Erin Paschos and Connie Moncado.

As grade 12 students we found that there was a need for a business related club at our school. We took it upon ourselves to bring the international organization of DECA to the St. Mary Business Department.

DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is an organization that develops emerging leaders in various fields of business including; hospitality, finance, management, and marketing. Members of the club can work individually, in small groups, or as a whole to complete business related case studies. The studies are provided by the organization and are used as practice before being able to qualify for regional competitions.

This club is available for students grades 9-12. This requires no previous business experience or class requirements. This club is for those who are passionate about being involved in the business field, or are interested in expanding their networks and opportunities.

Our mission is to provide credentials for all our post-secondary bound business students who wish to build a network, as well as gain knowledge experience in the business. In addition, we would like the opportunity to provide students of other disciplines the chance to be involved in the business during their time at St. Mary.

We are very excited to have our idea become a reality and are looking forward to the year ahead. We would like to thank all those involved in assisting us: Mr. Belmonte, Mr. O'Brien. Our first meeting is yet to be determined. Please pay attention to announcements in the near future about our first meeting that will be held after school in the back of the learning commons from 3-4pm.

Erin Paschos & Connie Moncado Founding Presidents of DECA 2017/18

Mr. Belmonte
Curriculum Chair



Outdoor Ed Student Leadership Team.....

The 2017/2018 school year brings with it some exciting events for the St. Mary Outdoor Ed Team. In October, 50 students gathered at Camp Samac to work with our friends from Durham College to begin the planning stages of building a greenhouse, right here, at St. Mary.

When our greenhouse is complete, food and nutrition classes can use fresh produce, farm to table. Science classes might study how changing variables, such as water frequency, might affect the yield of the produce. Life skills classes can learn about caring for the crops. Math classes can measure the capacity of each planter so that it can be filled with soil. Students and teachers can discuss the importance of urban food hubs in areas with growing populations. The possibilities are only limited by our own imagination!

In addition to planning our greenhouse, the Outdoor Ed Team will travel to Teen Ranch in Caledon in February to experience a real Canadian Winter. The team will be given the opportunity to experience activities such as snowshoeing, pond skating and survival training. In the Spring, the St. Mary Outdoor Ed team will provide new and fun opportunities to students at our feeder schools to enjoy and appreciate the great outdoors. Our students will plan and lead elementary school students through an outdoor adventure day at Camp Samac. In the past, these adventure days have included campfires, complete with marshmallows and camp songs, hikes, rock climbing and shelter building. With all this to look forward to, it's going to be a busy and exciting year for the St. Mary Outdoor Ed team.