

Have you visited the new St Mary website www.stmary.dcdsb.ca?

Receive the latest School News and Events

New for September 2016! We are excited to announce the launch of our new school website that offers a fresh look, accessible content and user-friendly features such as:

- Subscribing to our school news and calendar webpages to receive regular emails on the latest news and events;
- Responsive design viewable on your computer, tablet and mobile.
- Type size selector and other accessible features.

How to Subscribe to our School Calendar and News Webpages?

Stay informed and receive emails about upcoming events and information. We are encouraging you to subscribe to our calendar and news webpages. View our video that demonstrates how to subscribe and start receiving the information you want from our school: <http://dcdsb.ca/video>

You will receive a verification email which you need to confirm before receiving our emails. We hate to see you go, but you can unsubscribe at any time.

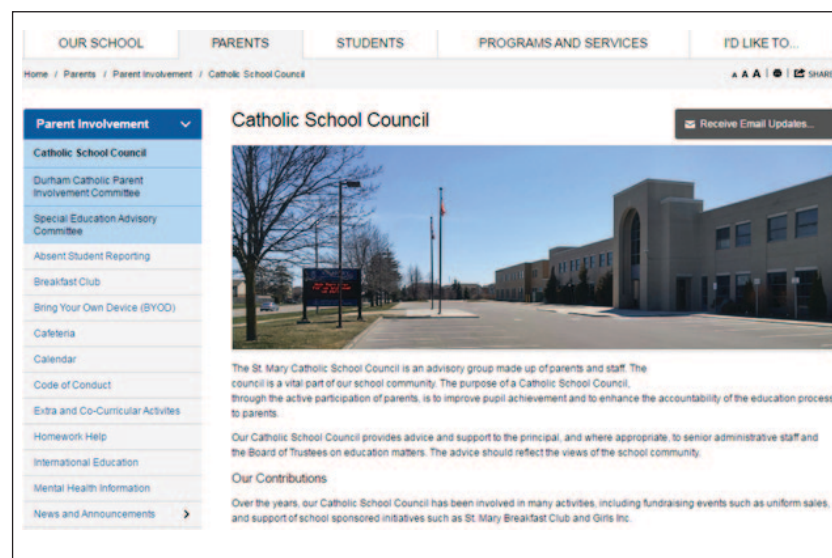
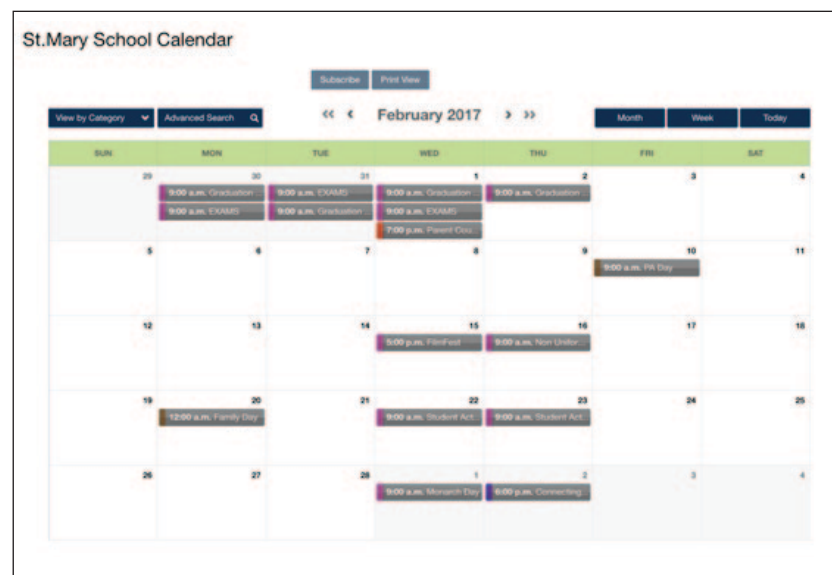
How to Stay Informed

There are a variety of ways that you can stay informed about the various activities happening at St. Mary:

St. Mary webpage www.stmary.dcdsb.ca

The St. Mary webpage provides a large variety of information about the programs and activities at St. Mary! Here is a sample of how you can learn about what's going on:

- Daily Announcements (slide show as seen on the TV screens in the hallways)
- School News (Celebrating Excellence)
- Events Calendar
- Extra- and Co-Curricular Activities
- Teacher websites
- St. Mary twitter @StMaryCSS



St. Mary Newsletter

Vol: #3

April, 2017

St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Community Update stmary.dcdsb.ca

News From The Principal

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book

We would like to wish all families in our St. Mary Community a blessed and holy Easter Season.

The start of second semester has been full of events and activities. We celebrated Black History Month with music over the lunches in the cafeteria, a taste of Black Culture serving up delicious Caribbean food, and being entertained and educated at an assembly by Sean Morrisette. Mr. Morrisette shared his experiences, successes and history of Black people in Canada. We thank the students on the committee for their work planning and organizing the activities for Black History Month.

During our Stand up to Bullying week we celebrated National Pink Shirt Day. Members of our Grade 11 Retreat Leadership class visited grade 7 classes in our elementary feeder schools to deliver messages on bullying, harassment, discrimination and how to stop and stand up to bullying. This same group presented to our grade 9 classes in an assembly. We thank these students for their leadership, support and strong message.

Our School Board is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. We will be sending a contingent of staff and students to France. We hope they will enjoy a great Canadian Historical experience and we pray for their safe return. Our school band will also be travelling as they head to Boston. The students will have a private tour of Harvard, partake in sightseeing, attend a professional jazz concert and will participate in a masterclass with a professor from the Boston Conservatory. Our senior concert and jazz band will be competing at MusicFest Canada in May. This is a prestigious music festival and entry is by invitation only. We wish them much luck and safe travels.

We will be celebrating Catholic Education Week during the first week of May. We will have guest speakers and activities during that week. The school Board will be hosting the annual Children's Foundation Dinner on the evening of May 5th. It is a fundraising dinner to support students in need in all of our schools. Distinguished alumni from all of our High Schools will also be honoured. Receiving the award for St. Mary is Luke Stocking. If you are interested in attending or would like to donate or sponsor this event please call me at the main office.

We are at the mid-term of our semester and with the newsletter, will receive your child's report card. Please review the marks, comments and learning skills. If you have any concerns please speak with your child's teacher. There is a lot of time for correction and intervention.

To our grade 12 students, you are in the final stage of your high school career. Work hard, stay focused, and don't let up, you want to finish strong. If you have not finished your community service please see your guidance counsellor immediately. A reminder graduation ceremony will be held on June 28th and prom will be held on June 29th.

Amare et Servire
Mr. Michael O'Brien

NEWSLETTER DESIGNED BY: Mr. Joel Pisani

NEWSLETTER EDITED BY: Ms. Sicchia

NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY: The Business SHSM Team

Fine Arts Department News

Fine Arts Department

The Arts department continues to inspire the school community with its creative energy and initiatives. February saw the close of the Grade 12 Art and Photo Show at the Pickering Civic Centre, and the successful run of our student film fest at the Landmark Cinema. The second semester then opened with a whole new group of student artists ready to put their creative process to work in all our visual, photo, music, dance and drama classes! Several of the grade 11 and 12 visual arts students had works selected by the board office to be displayed for the mental wellness month in February. Congratulations to Gonzalo, Alicia, Amanda and Sasha for having their paintings selected for exhibit. Special congratulations extends to Alicia Katsanis for winning the board wide competition for her digital painting "Passing". Gonzalo will also be exhibiting two of his paintings in the City of Pickering "Canada 150" youth forum at the Pickering Recreation Centre in May.

Drama

Grade 9 - The grade 9 drama students have been diligently developing their performance skills. They have created tableaux scenes on themes such as "Overcoming Adversity", "Team" and "One person can make a difference". The students are currently researching the conventions of Mime and creating their own clown characters.

Grade 10 - The grade 10 drama students have completed units on Tableau and Mime and have learned the basics of facial expression, body language and character creation. They have also begun to explore the origins of theatre through their study of Greek Theatre and mythology.

Grade 11 - Students in grade 11 have two major performances during the course of their semester: The Passion Play and The Children's Theatre Play. The Passion of Jesus was performed on Holy Thursday during two assemblies in the gymnasium. The show was very well received. The next challenge for the grade 11 drama students is their Children's Theatre unit which will culminate in a final play performance for students from our elementary feeder schools in late May, 2017. This is a vibrant group of very talented young people who thoroughly enjoy performance.

Grade 12 - The Sears Drama Festival took place at the Oshawa Little Theatre in February, 2017. The grade 12 entry, "The Divine Killer" was an original play written by Matthew Rossi, a grade 12 student. The play was very well received and the cast won an Award of Merit for Ensemble Performance. Immediately after the Sears Festival, the grade 12 students began work on a one-act play performance unit. The two plays were performed for about 50 St. Mary students in the drama room, on April 3, 2017. Following the one-act play performances, grade 12 students have been studying a variety of acting techniques and working with scripts from Canadian playwrights and modernized Shakespearean works. Sending best wishes to the graduating drama students, several of whom are hoping to continue their study of drama at the post-secondary level.

Visual Arts

Plans are in the works for grade 9 and 10 art students to attend a full day clay workshop in mid May at Harbourfront; students will have completed their introductory work in painting, sketching and print making by this time. Ms. McDavid's Grade 11 and 12 students in Interior Design, Art History and Exploring the Arts will be part of the Arts and Culture trip to Harbourfront and Ontario College of Art and Design on May 4th. The trip will include a performance art installation featuring multi-media performers from Theatre Gargantua, followed in the afternoon by a brief tour of the OCAD grad show.

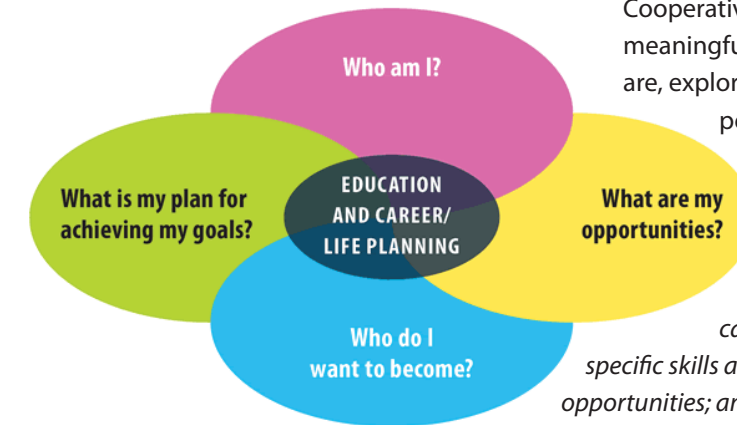
Arts and Culture SHSM: Experiential Learning May 4

As the Arts and Culture SHSM Lead, I am proud to see how our students continue to be successful in their pursuit of the arts industry sector. Our Arts and Culture SHSM program continues to grow and successfully graduate increasing numbers of students with the prestigious SHSM seal. This year we have 10 students on the path toward graduation with all courses and certifications completed for their Arts and Culture Ministry seal. All Arts and Culture students are invited to attend our May 4 experiential learning at Harbourfront, where we will attend a performance art piece that explores how media exploits violence in our society; students will then tour the Ontario College of Art and Design grad show. See Ms. McDavid, in room 161 for information about the Arts and Culture SHSM and for trip forms.



Cooperative Education Department News

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.



"[Through co-operative education] students develop and come to recognize their own strengths, interests, and skills with respect to expectations in the workplace; deepen their understanding of educational and career/life opportunities available to them; explore the specific skills and education or training required to pursue these opportunities; and set goals, make plans to achieve their goals, and prepare for their transition from secondary school to their initial postsecondary destination." **Ontario Ministry of Education, Creating 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:

20 Vic Retail – PTC Admin, Active Green & Ross, Altona Forest P.S., Complete Performance Centre, Cora's, Durham Region Unemployed Help Centre, EduKids- Glenanna, Fish TV, FYI Doctors, First Steps Daycare, Goodlife – Liverpool, Graymatter Marketing, Jemm Truck & Trailer, Lifemark Physiotherapy, Lone Star, Mapleridge Mechanical, Millennium City Vet, Merle Norman, Oluyemisi Abrahams Law Office, Orhcard Villa Extendicare, Pickering Soccer Club, Pickering Auto Lab, Renaissance Printing Inc., Rogers TV, RVAP, Selco, SHED, Shoppers Durg Mart – Steeple Hill, Shoppers Drug Mart – Walnut Lane, Somcan, Splash Modelling Marketing, St. Isaac Jogues C.S., Trade Secrets, Triple A Transmission, Valley Farm P.S., Volkswagen Finance, Whitby Station Gallery.

Through students' cooperative education course and placement components, students develop an understanding of transferable skills that are not only important within an education setting but also the broader community.

*Through the **Ontario Skills Passport**, co-op students explore "Essential Skills that enable people to perform tasks required by their occupation and other activities of daily life. These skills provide people with the foundation for learning other skills, such as technical skills, and enhance their ability to adapt to change."*

Ontario Ministry of Education, Ontario Skills Passport

All students are encouraged to explore the **Ontario Skills Passport – Skills Zone** website to develop an understanding of the OSP and how to use to assess, build, document and track Essential Skills and work habits and transfer them to everyday life and the next place you go – whether it's further education, training or the workplace. [<http://skillszone.ca>]

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 about the experiential learning programs offered at St. Mary.

Ms. Wilson-Clark x.56033

Ms. Hunter x.56032

Know, Grow and Show Your Skills and Work Habits



Ontario Skills Passport

<http://skills.edu.gov.on.ca>

Math Department News

"But in the new (math) approach, the important thing is to understand what you're doing, rather than to get the right answer."

Tom Lehrer

Math as a Cumulative Discipline

Math know-how is cumulative, which means it works much like a stack of building blocks. Not only have we needed a base, but a solid and concrete foundation in order to 'build upon'.

Generally, our first mathematical building blocks are for the foundation as students learn rules for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The next building blocks are for the framework of knowledge as students learn formulae and operations.

No matter where you are in your math studies, you can excel if you backtrack far enough to reinforce your foundation. You must fill the gaps with a deep understanding of the basic concepts you encountered at previous grade(s), not just through memorization, as a means of succeeding in nearly any field.

Congratulation to the Math Contestants

For Pascal, Cayley and Fermat Contests, every student scoring in the top 25% of all competitors receives a Certificate of Distinction. The mathematics department would like to congratulate the following students who have earned a Certificate of Distinction.

Grade 9 Pascal Math Contest

1st Place: Alexandra Nicolescu (Certificate of Distinction with Medal)

Grade 10 Cayley Math Contest

1st Place: Megan Bourque (Certificate of Distinction with Medal)

2nd Place: Leilani Rocha

3rd Place: Nicoleta Moraru

4th Place: Anmol Agarwal

5th Place: Alyssa Gilker

6th Place: Ethan Lisi

7th Place: Neil Lobo

Grade 11 Fermat Math Contest

1st Place: Kayleigh Melcher (Certificate of Distinction with Medal)

2nd Place: Ty Cymbalista

3rd Place: Leeam Ng Tang Fui

Grade 12 Math League Contest: students who scored the top 5 in the Contest

1st Place: Lucas Nicholson

2nd Place: Nathan De Matos

3rd Place: Jordan Loo & Justin Rajballie

4th Place: Matthew Schneider

The Mathematics Challenge Contests are coming up!

There are many different contests designed for specific grade.

Fryer Contest (April 12, 2017) -- (Grade 9)

Galois Contest (April 12, 2017) -- (Grade 10)

Hypatia Contest (April 12, 2017) -- (Grade 11)

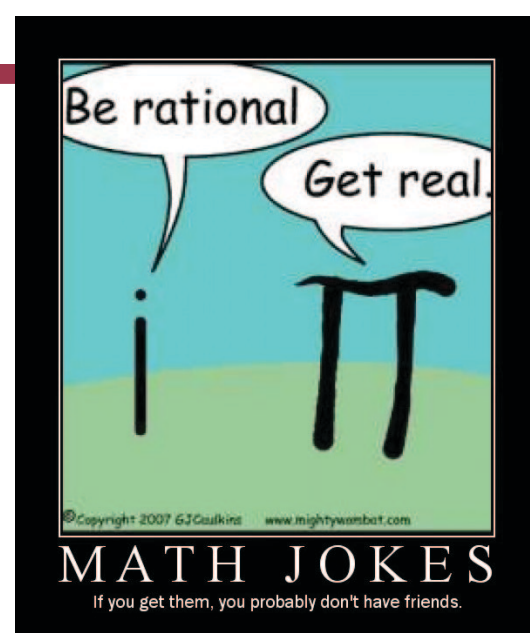
Euclid Contest (April 6, 2017) -- (Grade 12)

Please listen to morning announcements for contest location.

The more information about the contest, such as the old contests with solutions can be found from the following website www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca. Please visit www.stmarycss.ca to access the mathematics teachers websites. Most of the mathematics teachers have their websites set up which displays all students' progress in class, daily homework, and other important information. Please take a moment to check your children's academic progress.

Ms. Chang

Curriculum Chair



Fine Arts Department News Continued

Dance

We welcome back our terrific Dance teacher, Ms. Freeman, from her maternity leave; Mrs. Freeman's senior dancers are looking forward to a series of guest resident artists who will work with them in a variety of dance genres. Currently, dancers are working on both their inspired self-choreo pieces, as well as the rehearsal of class numbers to be included in the end of year dance showcase. Stay tuned for ticket sale information re: the June Dance Showcase as it is always a sold out affair! For details on our dance program or the showcase, speak with Ms. Freeman.

Photography

Ms. O'Leary is pleased that the City of Pickering has invited some of her photography students to photograph the Canada 150 Youth Forum: A Confederation Journey to be held at the Pickering Recreation Centre on May 4th. The St. Mary Photographers will have the opportunity to share their vision for the next 50 years for Pickering and Canada. There will be keynote speakers sharing experiences and messages about the power of positivity, overcoming challenges, mental health and believing in oneself. Breakout sessions will be available for students to choose from that range from dance, art, entering the film & television industry, fitness and wildlife conservation. The St. Mary Photographers are excited to both participate in and photograph this once in a life time event. Planning is also under way for students to attend the SPARK Photography Festival in the Kawarthas in April. Students will be viewing works by teens in that region, emerging artists and professional photographers, along with official war photographs from the Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian War Museum, and Veterans Affairs Canada focusing on The Great War of 1914-1918.

Music: Instrumental

The Instrumental Music Department is gearing up for an incredibly busy spring season. We are diligently rehearsing for a great performance season. Our first performance is at a clinic while on our Band Trip to Boston May 2nd-6th with grade 10-12 students. On May 15th and 16th, the Senior band and Jazz band will be competing at MusicFest Canada in Niagara Falls. This is a huge accomplishment for our Music Department as this competition is by invitation only, based on our performance last spring at Western University. Finally, please mark your calendars for our Spring Concert on Thursday May 25th at 7pm in the Cafe. We will be featuring our junior, intermediate, senior and jazz bands. Finally, we will be hosting our 2nd annual Craft and Christmas fair on Saturday November 4th next school year! If you have a business that you think would be a great addition to our fair, please contact Mrs. Puccia to get on the mailing list.

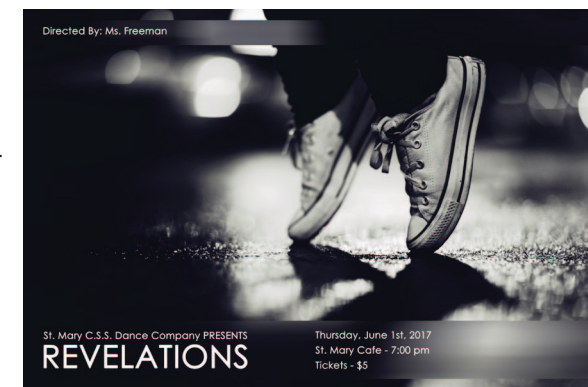
lisa.puccia@dcdsb.ca

Vocal Music

Busy... Busy... Busy... describes the singers of St. Mary. The Vocal Department has been both singing and "dancing up a storm" in preparation for their Spring Concert, Always and Forever, taking place Thursday May 18 at 7 pm. This concert is full of energy, choreography by all the ensembles, and amazing singing. Mark your calendars and don't miss this exciting and inspirational concert on April 27th, our St. Mary choir has been selected by the School Board to present the music for the "All Board Grade 12 Graduate Gathering" at the GM Centre. We are thankful and honoured to have been selected to represent St. Mary at this board wide event. As has been our annual tradition, our singers will perform at our closing mass, graduation and our annual trip to Canada's Wonderland. What a year – what a talented and dedicated group of singers – and what a joy to be part of the Vocal Department at St. Mary!

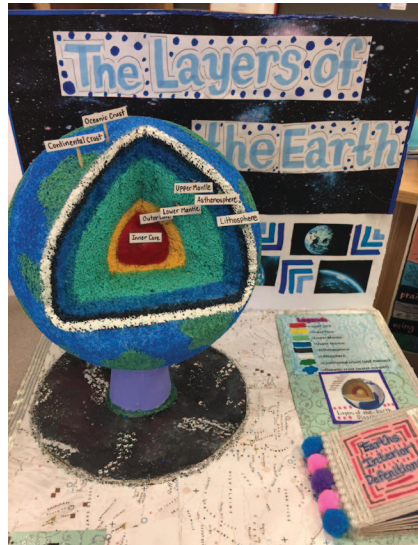
Ms. McDavid

Curriculum Chair



Canadian & World Studies & Social Sciences Department News

Grade 9 geography classes made and presented creative physical geography projects. Projects included models, video production, media arts and delicious volcano and earth cakes. Please see a photo sample of one of the great assignments in Mrs. Reeves' geography class.



The grade 10 Civics students completed their Civics Big Ideas projects. The Civics Big Ideas activity asks students to think of a Big Idea about a topic he/she is passionate about and concerns their community, city, province, or even the world. Students then research and prepare a presentation about how their idea could make a positive difference. Civics students will have the opportunity to further their research Big Idea and enhance their presentation skills with our after-school St. Mary CSS TED Ed Club.

The grade 10 Food and Nutrition classes have started the cooking portion of the course. Cinnamon and savory pretzels were baked and tasty and sometimes spicy Sicilian Egg Patties were sautéed in an aromatic garlic and tomato basil sauce. The students also started a unit on the impact of nutrition and lifestyle choices in maintaining optimum health. Moving forward they will explore the many diverse career options available in the food industry, research rising food costs and apply their knowledge to plan and cook nutritious meals. In May, they will participate in the always popular field trip into Toronto for a food scavenger hunt!!

Our grade ten Canadian history classes completed Unit 1 which includes First World War and the 1920s. Students learned about the extreme living conditions that soldiers experienced in the trenches during World War One, as well as the challenges they faced as a result of dramatically changing technology. Students completed their History Rich Task activities which allowed each one to demonstrate their learning based on their interests and strengths.

Grade ten History students will have an opportunity to hear Holocaust Survivor and business entrepreneur Elly Gotz's talk in May at St. Mary CSS. We are welcoming Elly back, and consider him a part of the St. Mary community after having addressed hundreds of our students over the last five years. We are honored to have him share his story of surviving the Holocaust and his message of forgiveness is powerful. His poignant recollections of life in a concentration camp exemplify the will of the human spirit, and one of hope. We look forward to Elly's visit, and are grateful for his friendship with St. Mary.

The grade 11 Sociology, Psychology & Anthropology classes have looked at a number of relevant issues including sexism, taboos, social media and the influence of groups. We are looking forward to a number of wonderful guest speakers on varying topics including local homelessness, mental health, archeology and forensic anthropology. We will also be heading to the zoo for a guided tour to witness the similarities and differences between humans, apes and chimpanzees, linking it back to our physical anthropology unit on primatology.

The grade 11 and 12 law classes at St. Mary have been busy studying constitutional and human rights law. They recently began criminal law which covers riveting topics such as police powers, rights on arrest, crime scene investigation, criminal trials and sentencing. The law classes will also be enjoying a police presentation from the canine unit of Durham Regional Police on April 24th and be visiting the Superior Courts in Toronto in May. They were also fortunate to attend a presentation by Elie Ghannoum and David Goldberg, two Toronto lawyers who shared their experiences and career pathway connections for our students.

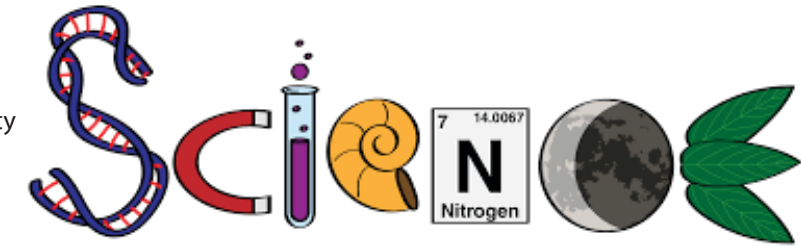
St Mary's Law Club is excited about several upcoming events that include their participation in the annual Kelly Cup competition. Students have begun preparation in formulating legal arguments related to the case and in the coming weeks, practicing their roles as lawyers and witnesses. They will be competing against 13 other secondary schools in our region at the Oshawa Courthouse on May 3 and 4, 2017.

Science Department News

Many of the universities and other educational institutions in Ontario offer fun and interesting science programs through the summer holidays that can help your child enrich their science knowledge and build up new experiences to add to their resumes or university/college applications. There are also many local volunteer opportunities that combine science experiences and the collection of hours for graduation with our Catholic Graduate Expectation to serve as stewards of our Earth.

A Few to Explore:

- Helix Summer Science Institute: York University
- Science Unlimited : University of Toronto
- DEEP summer academy: University of Toronto
- SHAD summer internship
- Faculty of Medicine's Youth Summer Program: University of Toronto
- Summer camps for kids (app design, circuitry, electronics): UOIT
- Sunnybrook summer internship
- Nature Conservancy of Canada



Many of the hospital and university summer programs are accepting applications now for their competitive programs. These applications require a lot of work and usually the student will need to attach one or more reference letters.

Another opportunity that the grade 9, 10 and 11 students may wish to consider in the future would be to attend one of their grade 12 semesters at the Ontario Science Centre Science School where they can take a variety of grade 12 science and math courses. All St. Mary students who have attended found it to be a very exciting learning experience.

**Science Clinic runs every Wednesday after school
in room 265 from 3:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Ms. Tyler
Curriculum Chair**



**Attention St. Mary Grads of 2017
See this poster for information
regarding your Prom
on June 29th!!!**

REMINDER
Parent Council Meeting
May 3rd, 2017 & June 7th, 2017

St. Mary Breakfast Club - A Good Way To Start The Day

We know that when a child is well-nourished, they perform better in school and the St. Mary Breakfast Club aims to ensure that students receive a healthy start to their school day. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 8:30 am - 8:45 am, a variety of breakfast foods are served FREE to any students who are interested in starting their mornings in a healthy and nutritious way. Staff and student volunteers are our hosts and hostesses, welcoming everyone with a smile.

Our daily menu includes yogurt tubes, cheese strings, granola bars, fresh fruit, apple and orange juice boxes. Bagels are served on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while "Waffle Wednesdays" seems to be our most popular morning.

The St. Mary Breakfast club would like to acknowledge our generous supporters:

Durham's Child Nutrition Project

(Ministry of Children and Youth Services:

Peterborough Family Resource Centre)

<http://www.studentnutritionprogram.ca/durham.html>

Breakfast for Learning (Loan of an industrial toaster)

<http://www.breakfastforlearning.ca/>

Thank you to this semester's staff volunteers: Ms. Tyler; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Feraday; Ms. Burke; Ms. Giglio; Ms. Riviera-Lopez; Ms. El Saikali; Ms. Baglole; Ms. Carnovale; Ms. Ladrillo; Ms. Raponi

Please contact Ms. Cayford anytime at 905-420-7166 (x56021)



Health and Physical Education Department

Spring Sports (2016 – 2017)

- Badminton- G. Joaquin, V. Millare
- Varsity Boys Lacrosse - B. Smart, P. Montgomery
- Varsity Girls Lacrosse - D. Reynolds-McMullen
- Varsity Boys Rugby - T. Klemensowicz,
- Varsity Girls Rugby - G. Smith, B. Hunter
- Junior Girls Soccer - Mr. Murphy, Mr. McCann
- Senior Girls Soccer - S. McDavid
- Track & Field - E. Antonucci, N. Gallagher, M. Milan
- Co-ed Volleyball (Indoor & Beach)- S. Teasdale

LOSSA: CONGRATS TO THE OPEN BOYS SWIMMING ON THEIR LOSSA TITLE!

OFSAA: SENIOR BOYS SOCCER IN STONEY CREEK JUNE 1-3---GOOD LUCK BOYS!

MONARCHS ANNUAL ATHLETIC BANQUET

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7TH @ ST. MARY CSS

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM WITH AWARDS & DINNER TO FOLLOW

NO JEANS OR HATS (SEMI FORMAL)

ALL ATHLETES WILL BE REQUIRED TO RSVP FOR THEIR TICKET IN ADVANCE

Health & Physical Education: ALL GRADE 9 FEMALE PHYS ED CLASSES ARE PARTICIPATING IN SELF-DEFENSE THE WEEK OF MAY 23-29th

Ms. Teasdale

Curriculum Chair

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

Our department is proud to offer a new course called Current Aboriginal Issues in Canada (NDA3M).

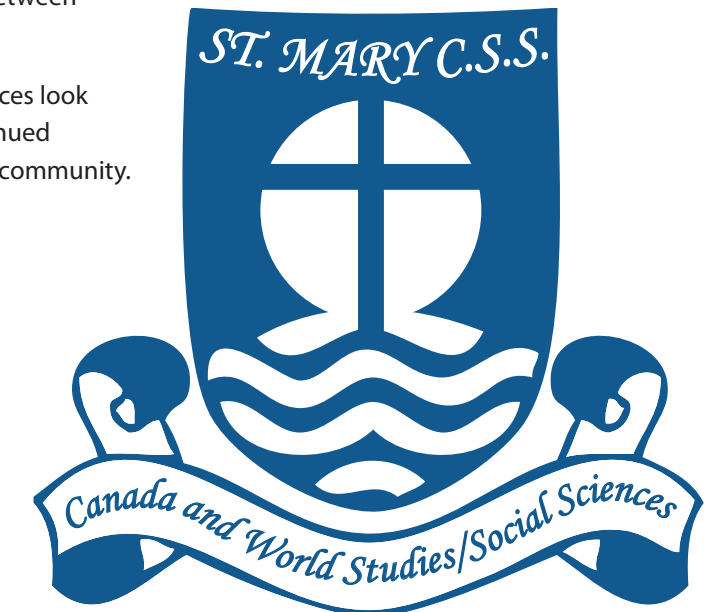
This course focuses on the existing and new issues of significance to Indigenous peoples of Canada. Students will examine issues related to identity, relationships among Indigenous peoples and between Indigenous peoples and other Canadians, sovereignty principles as presented by Indigenous peoples, and the contemporary challenges posed by these issues. Students will also investigate such topics as language preservation, the responsibilities of Indigenous women and men, and the need for dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

The department of Canada and World Studies/Social Sciences look forward to the second half of semester two. We wish continued blessings to our students and their families in the St. Mary community.

(twitter @ StMaryCWSDEPT)

Mr. Stanesic

Curriculum Chair



Non-Profit SHSM Team

Grade 11 and 12 Non-Profit SHSM students participated/attended reach ahead activities visiting Development and Peace, listening to a presentation prepared by Uju Unmenyi, the Youth and Outreach Coordinator (Canadian Jesuits International) and attending Mr. Elly Gotz's business talk. Some of our NPSHSM students also completed their First Aid and CPR certifications. Grade 10 students will be able to join the Non Profit SHSM team early in semester two during course selections. Students are encouraged to sign up early as space is limited.



This particular leadership SHSM is for students who want to make a difference. 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. We want to thank our Non-Profit SHSM students and the Non-Profit SHSM teacher team for all their tremendous work in semester one and we look forward to the second half of the school year.

Mr. Valookaran & Mr. Stanesic

St. Mary Ambassadors

St. Mary Ambassadors have worked hard this year helping with school events. St. Mary Ambassadors have helped behind the scenes with events like Photo/Photo Retake Day, Remembrance Day, the Post-Secondary Fair, Grade Eight Student visit, Parent/Teacher Interviews, and the Grade Eight Parent Night. Application forms can be found in classroom #238 for students interested in joining our great team in semester two.

Mr. Stanesic



TEDxStMary 2017

St. Mary Catholic Secondary School will host its annual TEDx event on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 with the theme: Equilibrium. Equilibrium is a state of rest or balance due to the equal action of opposing forces. At our 2017 event the ideas of our wonderful speaker's big ideas are going to create an equilibrium of mind, body and spirit for our audience. Our 5th TEDx event will see over 1100 students from the Durham Catholic District School Board, from grades 7-12, and numerous guests come together to see that all it takes to ignite the world is a spark.

The students who will take part in the event were selected by their administrators, chaplains and teachers as those who best represent their school communities and their commitment to creating strong Catholic communities.

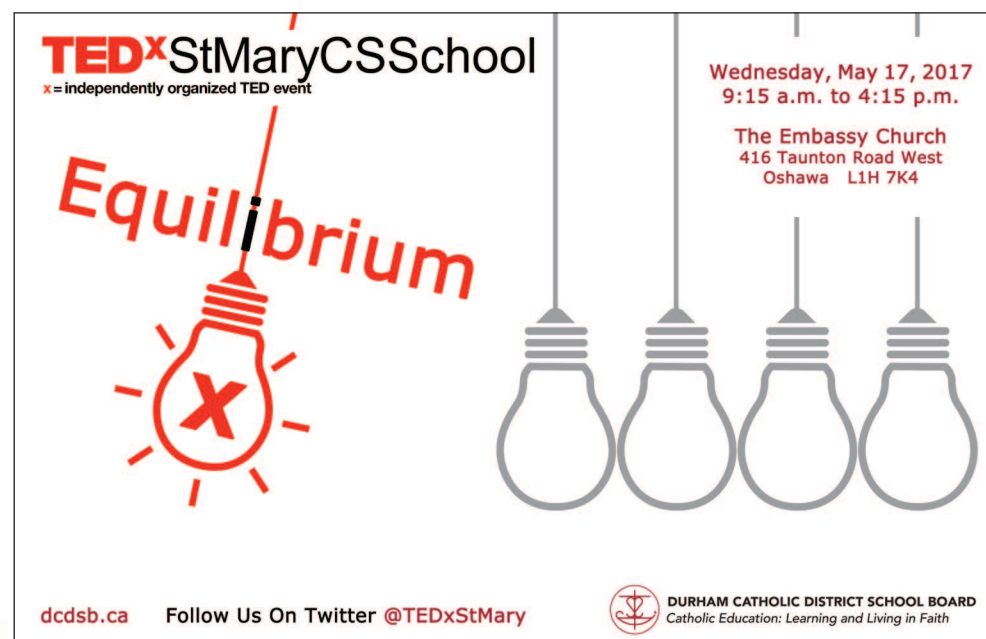
The TEDx conference is an annual event for students of the Durham Catholic District School Board as it provides them with great opportunities for learning, and growth, and to come together as a larger Catholic community. This event fits in with the Catholic Graduate Expectations and the foundation of Catholic education asking students to think, talk and share these ideas and in doing so, learn a little more about themselves and their place in the world.

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. TED outlines in its mission, "We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world. On TED.com, we're building a clearinghouse of free knowledge from the world's most inspired thinkers, a community of curious souls to engage with ideas and each other..."

For more information, you can follow the event on **Twitter @TEDxStMary**



and you can watch our livestream. Information for the livestream will be on both the St. Mary website and the Twitter feed on the day of the event.



Who is Speaking at TEDxStMary 2017?

- DO'CARTS** - Student Performers from Dennis O'Connor
- Eddy Robinson** - Educator/Indigenous Artist
- Jordan Axani** - Keynote Speaker/Lie Expert
- Julielynn Wong** - Healthcare Innovator
- Kelly Lovell** - Youth Motivator
- Les Stroud** - Survivorman
- Mark Correia** - Performer
- Natasha Sharma** - Happiness Expert/Relationship Expert
- Sacha Visagie** - Singer

Mr. Zimmer & the TEDx Organizing Committee

Program Support/Library/ESL News

Who's afraid of Sharks? Not our ESL and International Students who travelled along with Ms. Raponi and Ms. Stanesic to Ripley's Aquarium on March 31st. The students were thrilled to see and learn about sharks, stingrays, coral reefs and so much more. Then it was off to the Eaton Centre through Toronto's underground walkway. A fabulous day!



Our Library staff, along with the St. Mary community is eagerly awaiting the renovation of our Library Resource Centre beginning June 1st. Our new Learning Commons will include 32 computers, including 10 Mac computers, new furniture and shelving for our collection, as well as collaborative and individual work spaces. It will also feature a large presentation space and a meeting room that will be available for booking by staff and students.

One of the most anticipated additions to the Learning Commons will be a hack lab with a Mac computer, green screen and 3D printer. We've already received the 3D printer and have begun to do some exciting work with our Interior Design students who are using Tinkercad software to design and print 3D model kitchens. The hack lab will also contain maker-space activities such as Lego blocks, puzzles, and much more!

The updated space will meet the diverse needs of our school community and will further facilitate inquiry and project-based learning. We're excited to open our new Learning Commons in September and to benefit from this modern 21st century environment!

In Program Support, students are enjoying Ms. Allore's inspired lessons in the Creative Arts for Enjoyment and Expression course. The class recently participated in a relaxing yoga lesson and are looking forward to more wellness activities. The students are also excitedly awaiting their visit to Ripley's Aquarium in May.

Program Support is open daily and is located in Room 130. Program Support Teachers and Peer Tutors are available throughout the day and over all lunches to assist students with their academics and study skills. The department is also fortunate to have an amazing team of Educational Assistants who are committed to supporting our students.

For more information regarding Program Support services, please visit the St. Mary website at www.stmarycss.ca and look for details under the Programs and Services tab.

Julie Hooftman
Curriculum Chair

REMINDER
Catholic Education Week
May 1st-5th, 2017

English & Modern Languages Department News

Our department played an integral role in preparing students for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). As the literacy lead for St. Mary, I would like to acknowledge the work of Ms. Mallen, Ms. Walton and Mr. Chadee in supporting our students to prepare for the test. A big thanks goes out to Mrs. Carnovale for her tireless work on the literacy file, and for her continued leadership as it regards professional literacy development. I would also like to thank our interdisciplinary collaborative inquiry team, Mr. Ellsworth (History), Mr. Petryshyn (Math), Ms. Smith (Science) and Ms. Walton (English), for their work supporting Grade 10 Applied students using evidence-based research and EQAO data

In terms of experiential learning, our FSL students participated in the annual Cinéfranco French film festival in downtown Toronto. Many thanks to Ms. Raponi, Ms. Hammond, Mr. Partlow and Ms. Mallen for organizing the trip and supervising our students.

The department continues to make use of 21st century learning, and expects that students continually check the school website (<http://stmary.dcdsb.ca/>) for details about current events and other important information. Specifically, we invite all students to take advantage of electronic links to teacher websites (<http://www.stmarycss.ca/parents/teachers/>) for important files, homework, and assignment notices. I have also created a department website (<http://stmary.dcdsb.ca/index.php/faculty/english-and-modern-languages>) that is a compilation of all relevant files and information for students in our program.

On behalf of the in the English & Modern Languages department, I would like to add that we continue to support students reaching their God-given potential for in order to achieve academic excellence, promote and ensure equity, and strengthen religious faith in light of the new evangelization.

Mr. Longo
Curriculum Chair

"100 Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge"

Field Trip: Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge: Beaches and Battlefields

The Department of Canada & World Studies/Social Sciences' overseas trip took place between April 6th to April 17th, 2017. Thirty St. Mary CSS students visited the Netherlands, France and the UK. Students visited cities including Amsterdam, Paris and London and their tour including the Anne Frank House, the Eiffel Tower and St. Paul's Cathedral. In France, our students will be among thousands of Canadian youth in attendance for the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Students also visited the new Vimy Education Centre. We would like to thank Principal O'Brien/ Main Office, EF Tours, parents and especially our great group of students for a wonderful learning experience.

Mr. Stanesic
Mr. Zimmer



Business Department News

Communications Technology

Mr. Pisani's grade 12 Communications Technology class is working hard on the introduction videos to the annual St. Mary TEDx event on Wednesday, May 17th in Oshawa. The class is also working on logo designs for the "Doodle 4 Google - Canada in 150 Years" Google logo competition. Submissions are due May 2nd. The two TGI 3M1 grade 11 Communications Technology classes will be starting their TV commercial assignments and their stop motion assignments in May. These videos will all be posted on the class YouTube channel in June. **The class YouTube channel is 'Joel Pisani' at www.youtube.com.**

Business SHSM

The Business SHSM student will be running their annual business fund-raiser on Friday, June 2nd. Students will create small businesses and products and sell the items in the school cafe with the funds going to a worthy cause. The SHSM students will also be attending a stadium tour and Jays game on May 31st at 12:30 pm. Go Jays Go!

Mr. Belmonte
Curriculum Chair

Black History Month

Over 20 student leaders joined the Black History Student Committee (BHSC) for the 2016/2017 school year. The BHSC's theme this year was "Diversify Your Mind" and here is a list of activities and events that the BHSC organized and participated in:

- Black History Morning Announcements
- Morning Black Music Playlist in the Cafeteria
- Black History Month Poster
- Black History Month Display Table in our Resource Centre
- Black History Month Glass Display Case (in front hallway)
- The Taste of Black Culture

Our Black History Month culminated with our Diversify Your Mind Assemblies in February. This event included a prayer, a great BHSC student video, and our special guest speaker – Mr. Mauricette. Mr. Mauricette, an accomplished DJ, writer, producer and actor spoke to our students about Black History and how diverse skills have helped his career pathway to accomplish his goals.

Thank you to the staff and Admin who supported and helped make all the above events happen. Special thanks to Mr. Chadee, Mrs. Riveria-Lopez, Mr. Valookaran, Mr. Moriah, Mr. Zimmer, Ms. Sicchia, Mr. Small, Ms. Duncan, and Mr. Boyd.

Mr. Stanesic & Your Black History Student Committee



BUSINESS SHSM

ST. MARY C.S.S.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

diversify your mind

BHC 2017

TASTE OF BLACK CULTURE 02/16
BHM ASSEMBLY 02/22

News From Guidance

RECENT/UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

- **April 8th** – An evening session providing information for any student interested in the NCAA eligibility process of applying to a U.S. school was held for both parents and students in the cafeteria. Very informative and resourceful!
- **April 18th** – OSAP Presentation. A workshop for current Grade 11 and 12 post-secondary bound students who plan to apply for financial assistance was held in the library. A sign up list was made available in guidance.
- **End of April** – Proof of 40 hours of Community Service must be submitted by this date to guidance for students expecting to graduate in June 2017. Students are reminded of the April OUAC/OCAS transmission. Check your application files for accuracy. Report any errors and/or omissions to Guidance immediately.
- **May 1st** – the date by which students must confirm their acceptance to an Ontario college.
- **May 9th** – University Panel and May 28th – College Panel: Grade 11 students will have the opportunity to attend post-secondary planning workshops. Several liaison officers from Ontario colleges and universities will be at St. Mary to discuss post-secondary options with our students.
- **June 2nd** – the earliest date by which Ontario universities may require a response to an offer of admission.

GRADUATION

- The potential graduation list has been posted outside guidance since after March Break. Students who are in a position to graduate in June are asked to check this list for accuracy. If a student has not checked this by now, it is essential that they do and report any errors or omissions to guidance by May 1st.

SUMMER SCHOOL INFORMATION

- Registration information will be available in late April or early May for students who were not successful in one or more courses in the first semester. Parents will receive a phone call from their child's individual teachers the last week of June if their child was unsuccessful in their course.
- Students who would like to take a new course can also register for Summer School. They may also have the opportunity to take new courses through eLearning. Information can be obtained through a guidance counsellor.

OTHER SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

- Students from all grade levels are invited to investigate enrichment opportunities offered during the summer and throughout the school year. These include taking credit courses in Canada or internationally. As well, there are many programs offered at universities for the academically serious high school students.

Ms. Stanesic
Curriculum Chair



REMINDER

PA Day
Friday, April 28th, 2017

Extended French Department News

As our second semester approaches its midpoint, I would like to take a moment to provide you with some information pertaining to activities and courses in the Extended French department.

Firstly, this semester, I would like to welcome Mademoiselle Mallen to our department. Mademoiselle Mallen has taught Core French, as well as English at St Mary for many years now. Mademoiselle Mallen is teaching the grade 11 World Religion courses, and the grade 10 French class. I also welcome back Madame Zeenaeme-Hammond who is teaching the grade 9 Religion course this semester.

Our Extended French classes have been keeping busy this year. First I would like to congratulate Mme Zeenaeme-Hammond's Grade 10 Religion a Travers les Arts class. Last semester they entered a contest by The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association where they were asked to do research on our school's Saint: Mary. With a few very good video entries, one of our very own made it to the semi-finals in all of Ontario! This Religion class also participated in "ArtEdvantage" where they were able to test their painting skills. The grade 12 class was the first ever to have the grade 12 Religion class in French at St. Mary. Although not mandatory, they had a great class with enthusiasm and an in depth study of God's role in Christian life today. This semester Mademoiselle Mallen's grade 11 World Religion class learned all about la Spiritualité Autochtone, a topic which is very pertinent in our current culture. The class created some magnificently original totem poles to represent themselves. Such great creativity was shown!

The grade 12 French classes are about to embark in a new endeavour at St. Mary. For the first time in St. Mary's history, the students have been given the opportunity to participate in an internationally recognized language exam called the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) offered through Alliance Française de Toronto during the week of May 8th-11th, 2017. The exam provides accredited recognition of French proficiency across four competencies: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Upon successful completion of the exam, students will receive a DELF certificate from the French Ministry of National Education. We are very excited for our graduates to participate in this exam, and I look forward to continuing this tradition in future years at St. Mary! This same group of students will be the first ever to graduate with a French Immersion diploma. After four years of hard work in our programme, it will be exciting, but also sad, to see them walk across that stage on graduation, representing our first ever graduating French Immersion class. I am so proud of them all!

Please see below for a list of useful French websites for activities, homework help, and experiential learning opportunities:

- Online French Homework Help - www.voilalearning.com
- Canadian Parents for French - www.cpf.ca
- Podcast – Français facile – www.podcastfrancaisfacile.com (for listening activities)
- TV5 Monde – www.tv5monde.com (French-language activities)
- TFO - www.tfo.org (French videos, shows, and music)
- French Street – www.frenchstreet.ca (exchanges and programs)
- Explore – www.myexplore.ca (Gr. 11-12 students, 5-week French summer course)
- YMCA Summer French Employment Program – www.emplois-ete.com (summer job opportunities)
- International Student Exchange – www.iseontario.on.ca

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Mademoiselle Oster
Interim Curriculum Chair