

News From English/Modern Languages Department

The new academic year has once again brought us new personnel. I would like to personally welcome into the department the following teachers: Mrs. Marcia Doucette, Miss Kristen Hayes, Mr. Terry Kelly and Mr. John Neundorf. I would also like to welcome back returning teachers Mrs. MacAdam, Mrs. Marchioni, Miss McKenna and Ms. Walton.

In other news, the Advanced Placement (AP) program in English literature has expanded to include the Grade 11 University pre-AP course. Students and parents interested in AP are encouraged to check the departmental website under the heading "Advanced Placement Program" (see below for link). The goal is to offer a full slate of literature studies courses in AP by this time next year.

In terms of experiential learning, the entire semester one Grade 9 English cohort will be viewing a live dramatic performance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet in November. On the Modern Language side of things, we will provide students the opportunity to participate in the annual Chef à l'école workshop in November. FSL students will also participate in guest speaker sessions from York University and Explore.ca on topics in French language employment and post-secondary education opportunities.

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 to reach their God-given potential in order to achieve academic excellence, promote and ensure equity, and strengthen religious faith in light of the new evangelization.

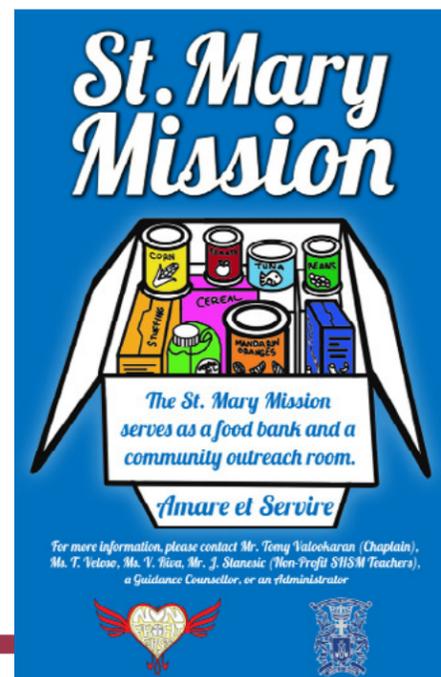
Mr. Longo
Curriculum Chair



The St. Mary Mission

The St. Mary Mission is the St. Mary CSS community outreach room. The purpose of this room is to help people in our community by way of food donations, school uniforms, etc. This room will also coordinate our Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter food drives (Mrs. Veloso) and store our donations for Canadian Food For Children (Mr. Loudfoot). Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Valookaran (Chaplain) and/or Ms. Cayford (Guidance Department) if you have any questions.

St. Mary CSS Non-Profit SHSM Team



St. Mary Newsletter

St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Community Update

Vol: #1

November, 2016

stmary.dcdsb.ca

@StMaryCSS

News From The Principal

Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop. - Dorothy Height

Happy New School Year! Coming out of an amazing summer we have had an equally amazing start to our school year. We would like to welcome new students and their families to our community and to over 15 new staff members. You will find St. Mary to be a welcoming and friendly community. The Durham Catholic District School Board established this year as the Year of Community. We will be celebrating Community and endeavour to ensure each student feels connected to our School community.

Our classrooms are buzzing with curiosity and growth. Learning and achievement is well underway. Projects, tests and assignments are challenging student's creativity and learning. Fr. Norris opened our school year with mass and retired Paul Dwyer teacher Michael Schneider shared his powerful story of gratitude with us at our Thanksgiving Liturgy with many in attendance sharing tears. Our grade 9 day was a tremendous success. It was a day filled with fun and games and an opportunity for our first year students to connect with each other, laugh, and foster new relationships. Student council is active in promoting non-uniform days, spirit week, spirit days, Halloween and our upcoming dance.

Our autumn sports teams are nearing completion with many of our teams going to play-offs and contending for championships. Students in our Arts department are working hard on this year's musical, Bye Bye Birdie. The show will be performed later in November. Our choir, band, and dancers are practicing hard for their concerts in December.

Again this year, we have a very robust retreat leader group. Over seventy students attended a three day retreat at Mary Grove camp in Midland. Students and teachers worked together to develop student's leadership abilities, teamwork skills, and plan activities for the school year. Many of our social justice activities are developed, organized and delivered by our retreat leaders.

Our Thanksgiving Food drive was very successful. From the donated items we were able to support our St. Mary families and St. Vincent de Paul. Thank-you to students and staff for donating and making this Thanksgiving Food drive a success. Many clubs in the school have started. Please listen to announcements or check out our website for more information.

Our school Board designated October as Indigenous month. We had many activities to raise awareness of the struggles of our First Nation, Metis and Inuit people. Theland Kecknosway and his mother entertained and educated our students on the struggles of Indigenous people in Canada. We need to be more aware, vigilant and offer support towards our First Nations people.

You have received your child's report card. Please review the learning skills, mark, number of lates and absences with your child. If you have concerns please contact your child's teacher.

Yours in Catholic Education,
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

The Art Department has once again launched itself into what is proving to be yet another busy, creative year! Students at St. Mary are blessed to have a wide variety of arts pathways open to them—our department includes full programs in Dance, Instrumental and Vocal Music, Dramatic Arts, Musical Theatre, Technical Theatre Production, Photographic Arts, (Traditional and Digital) Media Arts (Graphic and Film) and Visual Arts (Including Fine Arts, Crafts, Fashion, Interior Design, Art History and Interdisciplinary). Here's a word from each of our areas!!

Dance

• Grade 9 and 10 students have been working hard developing their technique and learning combinations that are certain to entertain their parents and friends at their planned Christmas family show. Plans are under way to take the students to a performance of the ballet Cinderella later this semester.

Ms. Russell

Instrumental Music

• Our annual Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday December 8th at 7pm in the cafe and will feature our Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Jazz Bands. Tickets always sell out prior to the concert and will be on sale starting November 24th through the music students.

Ms. Puccia

Vocal Music

- The Vocal Department is back in full swing this year with performances at the opening all school mass, Thanksgiving liturgy, Remembrance Day Assembly and Christmas Mass.
- The St. Mary Singers are hard at work on their Christmas Concert while the Vocal Jazz and newly assembled Vocal Blues ensembles are preparing some very challenging and beautiful music for the same concert.
- The Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday, December 15 at 7 pm. Mark your calendars and don't miss the sounds of the season on the 15th.

Ms. Yukich

Musical Theatre – Bye Bye Birdie

• Lights! Camera! ACTION! The cast and crew for "Bye Bye Birdie" are hard at work on this year's school musical production. Under the vocal direction of Ms. Janet Yukich, students have been learning the music and lyrics for the show, learning to sing in harmony and working diligently on vocal projection every day. Mr. Trevor Small, the head of our Production team, has an outstanding group of tech students who have spent the past month busily finding all of the essential items the cast will need for the show, tweaking lights, headsets and sound effects, building set pieces and designing costumes and so much more. And finally, under the direction of Ms. Marcia Doucette, the cast of the show underwent an intense three days of auditioning starting on the second day of the semester. Immediately following auditions, the cast was immersed in learning their staging and blocking, recording stage directions, developing characters and delving into historical research to widen their knowledge of the background of our show. It's been an exciting month! Our show opens to the public November 24, 25 and 26th. Be sure to get your tickets as soon as they go on sale. You won't want to miss this exceptionally fun trip back in time to the 1950s. It will be sure to make you "Put on a Happy Face".

Ms. Doucette

Cooperative Education Department News

"Experiential learning is particularly helpful in developing self-knowledge and awareness of opportunities – two areas of learning in the education and career/life planning framework – which are critical steps that precede setting goals and making plans." Ontario Ministry of Education, **Creating Pathways to Success**

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. Students this semester are engaged in workplace experiential learning at:

20 Vic Retail – Pickering Town Centre Administrative Offices, Active Green + Ross, Acura Pickering, Altona Forest P.S., The Breadhouse Bakery, Chartwell Pickering Parkway, The Children's Wish Foundation, Complete Performance Centre, Deluxe Stairs and Railings, EduKids Daycare Altona, EduKids Daycare Glenanna, Father Fenelon C.S., Graymatter Marketing, Ironstone Media, Jack Astor's, Jemm Truck & Trailer, Knights on Guard, Lifemark Physiotherapy, Lone Star Texas Grill, Millennium City Veterinary Hospital, Ontario Early Years Centre, Orchard Villa, Pickering Honda, Rogers TV, Rosebank Animal Hospital, Rouge Valley Ajax Pickering Hospital, St. Elizabeth Seton C.S., Search Engine People, Splash Modelling Marketing, St. Isaac Jogues C.S., Swiss Chalet, Tribute Décor Studio, Triple A Transportation

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

Ms. Rose x.56032

Ms. Wilson-Clark x.56033



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 for extra help the instant you realize that 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 that you can 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. Please book an appointment with your math teacher to get extra help either after school or before school.

Online Extra Math Resources

Math department website (www.stmarycss.ca > **Departments** > **Mathematics**) provides the information on all kinds of online extra 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.)

Ms. Chang

Curriculum Chair



Fine Arts Department News Continued

Photographic Arts

- Grade 10 Applied Design students have been learning how to use SWAY and Office 365 to improve their creative workflow along with developing their photograph skills by shooting digital assignments around the school and creating fashion photographs using studio lighting.
- St. Mary Grade 11 Photography students will be donating their time to take photographs of the guests arriving to Mayor Ryan's Charity Gala on Saturday November 19th 2016. Students will be shooting the red carpet arrivals along with Ms. O'Leary. This will provide them with an excellent experiential learning opportunity. Mayor Ryan has been a supporter of the Arts at St. Mary for over 10 years and we are pleased to be assisting him and our Pickering community members. They are also eager to begin using the school darkroom to develop their black and white 35 mm film.
- Grade 12 Photography students are hard at work photographing their 90 Day Nature Challenge along with using analog processes and mixed media to explore their Photo Exploration topics.

Ms. O'Leary

Media Arts

- Mr. Pisani's grade 12 media students are busy developing pre-productions stages of their student films. Stay tuned for exciting news about our end of semester student film fest in our next newsletter!!
- The grade 12 Media students participated in an urban art project with the Oshawa Community Outreach Centre "The Living Room", producing street art letter projects. See the Visual Arts article below for further information.

Mr. Pisani



The Visual Arts

- Ms. McDavid's grade 11 visual art students have completed both their metamorphosis carbon sketch unit and their composition armatures unit: we will be launching into the social justice and music conversion pieces in the next month. Students will be participating in a Harbourfront Arts Centre Urban Art workshop in November.
- Fashion Design students are off to Fabric Land Head Office in November to workshop with a trained textile artist and create portfolio fabric boards. The students have produced a wide range of flats/croquis and colour boards and have produced strong portfolio work in this newly introduced course.
- The grade 12 visual arts students have completed their synthetic and analytic cubism unit and the first series of their global awareness sketches; students are now working on Lichtenstein inspired portraits of members of the St. Mary community and will be heading to World Press at the end of October to further their planning of their themed master works.
- In the first week of October, the students also visited the Oshawa Community Outreach Art Centre, 'The Living Room': the center is a safe and inclusive space for youth and adults alike and programming is run free of charge to the community. Ms. McDavid's senior art students, along with Mr. Pisani's media students, participated in an urban art project: the center gratefully acknowledged our time and donation of paints to the center.

Thanks for catching up on all our Arts news –and that's in just the first month and a half of school!!!

Ms. McDavid

Curriculum Chair

Canadian & World Studies & Social Sciences Department News

The history of Aboriginal peoples in Canada is rich and diverse. This history stretches long into the past before the arrival of the European newcomers with diverse interactions among different peoples, flourishing trade and fierce conflict, and competition for lands and resources. The history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis is essentially the very history of Canada as they have played, and continue to play important roles in its development and its future. (Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada)

St. Mary has highlighted awareness regarding to Canada's First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) peoples in past years. The interest generated by last year's Red Dress Campaign (focussing on missing and murdered Aboriginal women of Canada), art installations and student speakers prompted the formation of a new group at St. Mary. The FNMI student group has planned numerous events to bring awareness to issues and injustices within Canada regarding to FNMI groups, and to celebrate Aboriginal culture.



On Monday, October 17th, assemblies were held during period 1 and 2 as we welcomed Theland Kicknosway and his mother Elaine. Theland, of the Wolf Clan-a Potawatami/Cree Nation in southern Ontario, is a grass and hoop dancer. When Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, and his cabinet commenced into Rideau Hall to be sworn in, it was Theland who drummed and led the way. He has also sang at numerous Truth and Reconciliation events in the Ottawa region. Theland has also committed to a four-year run, of which two he has completed, to bring awareness in conjunction with Families of Sisters in honour of missing and murdered Aboriginal women of Canada.

On Tuesday, October 18th, A Taste of Aboriginal Culture was served over the lunches. The event was hosted is by Tea N' Bannock of Toronto. They sold a variety of dishes such as "two bite" meat and vegetarian tacos, Bear Paws (pastry), Berry Juice, and other culinary tastes. The restaurant also be offered free samples of other foods that are part of the First Nations heritage such as bannock bread.

Finally, on Wednesday, October 19th, there were presentations on stage, in the school atrium, by students from the FNMI. They were educating their peers about topics that are a concern to Aboriginal Groups in Canada. The first topic is bringing awareness to the SIXTIES SCOOP. In Canada, during this time, thousands of children were taken from their indigenous homes and placed into state care, and, eventually, 70% found themselves in non-indigenous homes where they could not identify with either culture. The second topic that was addressed was the offensive and politically incorrect use of Indigenous references used for team Mascots. Much has been highlighted recently in the news and why team logos need to be changed.

The students used short powerpoints and informational talks to educate their peers while having lunch in the cafe. The FNMI Group will continue to meet regularly throughout the school year. The group is open to all interested students. Please see Ms. Hudson (Canadian World Studies/Religion) or Ms. O'Leary (Arts Department and Logo Designer).

Grade nine geography students have been studying how the Western World can better relate to other developing countries and discussing our own perspectives on how these kids can improve the future. Students will soon be learning about geology and weather. Mr. Joaquin is planning a March Break 2017 overseas school trip to Spain and Portugal!

The grade ten Food and Nutrition classes finished the fundamentals of kitchen safety and sanitation and are on their way to cooking delicious dishes representing various cultures. To date they have created dishes with a lot of enthusiasm. Mr. Smart's classes baked banana bran muffins that were donated to Breakfast Club and students will soon be making homemade pasta from scratch, followed by homemade sauce (marinara).

The grade ten civics students are currently learning about their municipal, provincial, and federal governments. On Tuesday October 11th, Member of Parliament Jennifer O'Connell visited St. Mary CSS and spoke to our

Christian Community Service Continued

Arts and Culture

• Includes volunteer assistance at a gallery, performing arts production or program, or in a community library program.

According to the Ministry of Education, an activity is INELIGIBLE for community involvement hours if it is:

- a requirement of a class/course (e.g. co-op, job shadowing, work experience);
- takes place during the time allotted for the instructional program on a school day. However, an activity that takes place during the student's lunch breaks or "spare" periods is permissible;
- would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace;
- consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e. daily chores) or personal recreational activities ;
- is an activity to satisfy the requirements of a court-ordered program (e.g. community-service program for young offenders, probationary program).

Where an event or activity does not clearly fall within the guidelines, the Principal has the discretion to approve or reject any activity or event that does not conform to the guiding principles and ethical standards for approved areas of involvement for students. If a student is ever unsure about the eligibility of an activity, he or she must see a Guidance Counsellor for approval prior to beginning.

The Guidance Department utilizes the following to share information about Community Service opportunities:

- "Community Involvement Hours" on the **St. Mary webpage www.stmary.dcdsb.ca**
- Community Service binder outside the Guidance Office
- Email blasts via Career Cruising

From the Chaplain's Desk

In September 2016 our School Board launched the second ministry in our three-year plan, through the theme of community. Just as our Church is called to be an effective messenger of the Gospel, so too must our school communities mirror the message that is preached in the Gospel. As members of a Christian community, St. Paul reminds us that all members of our communities have something important to contribute to the whole body, and Christian communities empower all members to utilize their God-given gifts and talents for the greater good. A Christian community remains bonded together through love and understanding, despite inevitable challenges.

Following the above challenge, we at St. Mary recruited approximately 90 students to be part of an intentional leadership community to inspire each other to model a genuine Christian community. We went to Mary Grove Girls camp, run by the St. Vincent De Paul society for three days and two nights to bond, pray and plan to be the hands and feet of our God in our school as well as the global community. These students take initiative in creating a caring compassionate school community modelled after the commands of Jesus Christ.

These students run our grade nine leadership program, grade nine mentorship program, grade ten retreats, safe and caring school's initiatives, anti-bullying initiatives, mental wellness initiatives, thanksgiving food drive, Alliance for Compassion, Global social justice outreach, Domestic social justice outreach etc. They are divided into 6 color families and meet every week to pray together and support each other and to look after the poor like an authentic Christian community.

Mr. Valookaran
Chaplain



Christian Community Service Graduation Requirement

To earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), students must complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement activities. The purpose of the community involvement requirement is to encourage students to develop awareness and understanding of civic responsibility and of the role they can play and the contributions they can make in supporting and strengthening their communities. Other benefits include developing leadership skills, gaining work-related experience and career awareness.

St. Mary students receive a Christian Community Service Booklet from Guidance in the fall of Grade 9 that must be completed in full in order to be accepted for the OSSD. Students must ensure they fill out required paperwork both before and after volunteering, and that signatures are received from their parents, and their supervisor at the volunteer activity.

Students may do as many different volunteer activities as they'd like as long as the total number of hours adds up to 40 and a signed sheet has been received for all activities. Once students have completed their Christian Community Service Requirements, they should submit their booklet to their St. Mary Guidance Counsellor. This can be submitted any time after they have completed a minimum of 40 hours. Grade 12 students should aim to complete and submit their Christian Community Service Requirements by the end of March to ensure processing for the Commencement Ceremony in June. Some examples of ELIGIBLE activities include:

Fundraising for Non-Profit Organizations

- Includes canvassing, organization of walk-a-thons for community benefit; celebrity games, gift-wrapping, gala events and sales for charitable purposes (e.g. Terry Fox, Cancer Society, Rose of Durham, Heart & Stroke)

Sports/Recreation for Non-Profit Organizations

- Includes coaching and score keeping for non-profit organizations including community leagues, helping to organize Special Olympics, parks and recreation programs, elementary school programs. Community Projects includes participating in organized food drive, or support services for community groups or community service clubs.

Community Events

- Includes helping to organize and participate in winter carnivals, parades and fairs in the community or public libraries. City of Pickering opportunities are available in Guidance.

Environmental Projects

- Includes participating in community clean up, flower/tree planting, recycling, and general beautification projects and activities.

Volunteer Work with Seniors/Disabled

- Includes assisting in a senior's residence, e.g. serving snacks, helping with activities, or participating in visiting and reading programs. Includes work with a senior citizen (non-relative) or disabled person (non-relative) – snow removal, yard work, and housekeeping.

Religious Activities

- Includes participation as a volunteer in programs for children, Sunday School assistance, choir, altar server, special events and clerical tasks (e.g. parish youth groups, Share Life, Canadian Food for Children)

Youth Programs

- Includes volunteer assistance with the operation of youth programs such as 4H, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Drop in Centre activities, breakfast programs, March break programs, Leaders in Training, Big Brother/Sister, summer playground or camp activities, hospital youth programs, volunteer at an elementary school.

Work With Animals

- Includes volunteer involvement with animal care or volunteer assistance at a local zoo, Humane Society or other non-profit agency.

Canadian & World Studies & Social Sciences News Continued

grade 10 civics students. Ms. O'Connell spoke about a variety of topics including the Pickering Airport, the future of the Pickering Nuclear Power Plant, Syrian Refugees, and her responsibilities as an MP and duties in the Finance Standing Committee. Our civics students are working on their culminating project - The Civics Big Ideas Project. The Civics Big Ideas activity asks students to think of a Big Idea that would make their community or the world a better place. Students can join the St Mary TED Ed Club to continue working and developing their Big Idea(s) after completing their Civics course.



The Grade ten history students are completing their study of unit one - World War One and the 1920s. The grade 10 academic students were given a rich task to help them examine the social, political, military, and economic changes that Canada experienced between 1914 - 1929. Students are presented with opportunities to apply their knowledge and understanding through differentiated tasks like paintings, dioramas, interviews, poetry, historical writing, multi-media, etc. In Ms. Hunter's applied grade 10 Canadian history class students learned about Canada during World War I by creating a map of Europe that displayed the important alliances.

The Department of Canada & World Studies/Social Sciences is excited that thirty five students signed up for The Vimy 100th Anniversary overseas trip from April 6th to April 17th, 2017. Students will be visiting the Netherlands, France and the UK. In France, our students will join thousands of other Canadian youth in the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and visit the new Vimy Education Centre.

Mr. Zimmer's grade 11 ancient history class completed their unit on early humans and ancient Egypt. Students examined the ancient practice of mummification and the pupils took on the job of turning one of their classmates into a Mummy! This is just the start of their in-class learning experiences as they will stage the Battle of Thermopylae when they study Greece and put the killers of Julius Caesar on trial when they learn about Rome. Students have started greater integration of online resources to help them take more ownership of their learning by using the TED-Ed lesson platform.



The law classes at St. Mary have been busy studying the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We have looked at some fascinating cases and the grade 11/12 law students will be visiting the Toronto Superior Courts where they will sit in actual court rooms and see what happens in a trial (Tuesday, October 18). Furthermore, St Mary's Law Club (Ms. Allore) is excited about several upcoming events that include their participation in the annual Kelly Cup competition. Students have begun preparation debating current issues in law to practice the art of persuasion and formulating legal arguments. 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.

Ms. Tiano and Ms. Van Rhee's grade eleven Sociology, Psychology & Anthropology classes have looked at a number of relevant issues including shadeism, taboos and the influence of groups and are looking forward to a number of wonderful guest speakers on varying topics including local homelessness, Sociolinguistics, mental health and forensic anthropology. For example, guest speakers from TAMI will visit to talk about mental illness and their experience. This session will help to stomp out stigmas and be compassionate to those diagnosed with mental illnesses. We will also be heading to the zoo to witness the amazing similarities and differences between humans, apes and chimpanzees, linking it back to our physical anthropology unit. It is going to be another great semester!



Follow our department on twitter: [StMaryCWS Dept.](#)

Mr. Stanesic
Curriculum Chair

Program Support/Library/ESL News

The start of the 2016-2017 school year has been a busy one for the Program Support/ESL/Library Department. On October 12th, Program Support welcomed Grade 8 students for our "Students with Assistive Technology Transition Trip". Students were given the opportunity to learn how Program Support works at secondary school while exploring their learning styles and learning to be self-advocates. Picture to the right are the students and teachers who participated in the day.



In Program Support, The Life Skills Culinary Class is enjoying teacher Ms. Allore's creative lessons and recipes. Pictured above are students Caroline and Curtis.

Program Support is fortunate to have an amazing team of Educational Assistants who are committed to supporting our students. We are happy to welcome EA Jim Wilson to our team this year.

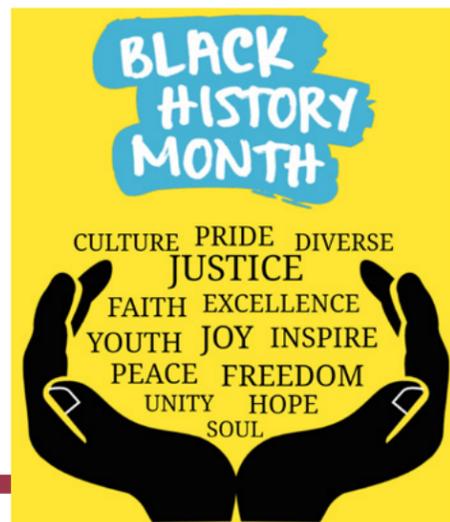
Program Support is open daily and is located in Room 130. We offer students a quiet place to work with one-on-one assistance available. Peer tutors are also on hand in the room to work with students. Program Support teachers Ms. De Lauretis (for Grade 9 students), Mr. Murphy (Grade 10), Ms. Singh-Charan (Grade 11), Mr. Ing (Grade 12) and Ms. Hooftman (Alternative Program) are looking forward to assisting students with reaching their academic goals.

Ms. Hooftman
Curriculum Chair

The Black History Committee

St. Mary CSS's Black History Student Committee (B.H.S.C.) is set to start in early November. Last year, BHSC successfully organized numerous events such as the Taste of Black Culture food event, four grade level workshops, the St. Mary Black History Fashion Show, etc. to educate, inspire and celebrate Black culture. Applications for students interested in joining this year's B.H.S.C. are available (room #238) and the date for our first meeting will be announced shortly.

Mr. Stanesic & The Black History Teacher Team



Science Department News

It's been a very busy start to the school year. Students have been coming regularly to science clinic which is held every Wednesday after school from 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

During this time, students can ask teachers questions, complete homework, work on assignments or complete labs that they might have missed during the week.

In science classrooms students have been demonstrating what they know in many different ways such as creating quantum theory timelines, in grade 12 chemistry, 'Marble runs' in the grade 12E science motion unit and concept maps in the biology unit of grade 10 science.

While the St. Mary CSS websites or being reformatted science teachers are using many other online formats to keep students and parents informed such as D2L, Twitter and Remind. Check with your child's teacher to see if there is an online space you can visit for important information.



Ms. Tyler
Curriculum Chair



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.**

News From The Religion Department

I would like to welcome Natalie Oosterholt and Helen O'Reilly to the Religion Department. Welcome back Ms. Veloso from her maternity leave.

Prospective retreat leaders attended a 3 day training session at Mary Grove Camp in Penatanguishene. The retreat leaders learned to conduct retreats for grade nine classes. The students are working very hard to be good examples and leaders for our younger students. The retreats are integral to our faith development at St. Mary and I thank Mr. O'Brien for his support in this endeavor.

The retreat leaders have composed the prayers for Safe Schools Week for all the schools board wide. The religion retreats are well under way with the Grade 9 and Grade 12 students attending retreats at Manresa Retreat Centre.

Our grade 10 students go to the Scott Mission in Toronto to help feed the homeless and less fortunate to reinforce ideas of social justice in the curriculum.

Our grade 11 students are being taken on tours in the GTA visiting a mosque, Buddhist temple, a Hindu temple and an Islamic mosque to supplement the World Religions curriculum.

Mr. Loudfoot, leading the CFC team, is once again collecting used clothes and other items for Canadian Food for Children which is an international Catholic aid organization designed to alleviate poverty in developing nations. Mr. Loudfoot has asked me to remind all concerned that he desperately needs old bicycles and eyeglasses to send as well.

Many thanks to Ms. Veloso and her homeroom, Ms. Minardi and her homeroom and Mr. Valookaran for a successful Thanksgiving Food Drive. As a result, the Mission Room has been restocked and reorganized and Holy Redeemer Church received the surplus. Ms. Veloso will be leading the team to conduct the Christmas Outreach.

Peace,
Mr. Gogolek
Curriculum Chair



Business Department News

As the business and technology curriculum chair I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new teachers, Mr. Chris Moriah and Mr. Patrick Montgomery to the business and technology department here at St. Mary.

Students in Mr. Montgomery's marketing class are having double the fun! Why you might ask? It's because 18 students are enrolled in the dual credit marketing course. Derek Brunton (professor at Durham College) comes in twice a week to teach his section of the course and Mr. Montgomery teaches the high school portion. Successful students will earn a college credit and a high school credit at the end of the semester. When students enter college, this credit will be applied to their first year. Students will be planning to take a field trip next month to Durham College to see what college life is like.

Students in Mr. Moriah's class are not wasting any time. They will be introduced to building materials and processes through opportunities to design and build various construction projects. Students will also learn to create and read working drawings; become familiar with common construction materials, components, and processes; and perform a variety of fabrication, assembly, and finishing operations. They will use a variety of hand and power tools to construct new buildings and renovate old ones. The construction classes will all go to get a 'hands on look' at the apprentice program at the College of Carpenters and Allied Trades on the 27th Oct. They will also have an opportunity to see the electrical side and the plumbing side of construction. Great Work Guys!

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program in Business gives students an opportunity to specialize, gain qualifications, and plan a career pathway in various areas of the Business sector while still in high school. Students will also receive training and certifications in several program and job-specific requirements, including such things as, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), standard first aid and CPR, counterfeit detection, and customer service training among many others. One of the great benefits of taking SHSM is the advantage students will have in the work force.



Mr. Belmonte
Curriculum Chair

Non-Profit SHSM Team

St. Mary's Non-profit specialist high skills major (NPSHSM) has entered into its fifth year. 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 currently have our largest student group (21 grade 11/12 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 CSS TEDx Conference, the St. Mary Mission, etc.) and certifications (ie. WHMIS, First Aid/CPR – Level C, Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) Training created by the Rotman School of Management, Ethical Understanding, Group Dynamics, Fundraising, etc.). Grade 10 students can apply for this SHSM program in February.



Mr. Stanesic & The NPSHSM Teacher Team

Important St. Mary C.S.S. Dates & Reminders

- PA Day - November 18th
- Christmas Break - December 26th – January 6th
- School Musical - November 24th – 26th
- Advent Begins - November 28th
- Music Concert - December 8th
- Parent Council Meeting - December 7th
- Vocal Concert - December 15th
- Dance Showcase - December 22nd

Student Success

St. Mary's Peer Mentorship Program began this year with a day long relationship building event held at Manresa Retreat Centre on September 10th, 2016. Grade 11 retreat leaders enrolled in the Leadership and Peer Support course, have undergone training to be mentors to grade 9 students. The day was facilitated by the grade 12 retreat leader mentors and focused on understanding the powerful and positive impact that participating in a mentorship program can have. Mentors and Mentees developed a foundation for their new relationship based on trust and understanding of the program and each other. The mentor and mentee will meet weekly over the course of the semester. Some of the mentees have already commented on the benefits of the program by stating "I never knew I had such potential to succeed!"

Ms. Baglole
Student Success Teacher

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 children 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 for our next meeting on December 7th, 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 website - www.stmary.dcdsb.ca**

Wishing you and your family a successful school year!
Beatrice Povolio
Chair, Catholic School Council

Health and Physical Education Department

GRADE 9 DAY

On September 28th Mrs. Smith's "Health for Life Class" (PPZ 30) alongside with Mrs. 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 students 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!

SPORTS!!!! What's Happening?

Our Fall Sports teams are well under way and we wish them all luck in their upcoming playoffs!

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

Annual Bryan Bonser Memorial Elementary School Volleyball Tournament

- 8 Elementary feeder schools of St. Mary joined 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



St. Mary Ambassadors

Since 2002, the St. Mary Ambassadors have served as volunteers to help with school events. Eighty-seven St. Mary students representing grades nine to twelve signed up as St. Mary Ambassadors for this school year. Signing up as a St. Mary Ambassador allows a student to help out their school community and the opportunity to earn community service hours. St. Mary Ambassadors have already helped with events including Photo Day, St. Mary CSS Post-Secondary Fair, and will soon be helping with the Grade 8 visit Parent/Teacher Interviews, and our Remembrance Day Ceremony.

St. Mary Ambassadors service to the school community reflects our school motto – AMARE ET SERVIRE (To Love and Serve). Any student that would like to join this team can download an application form on the St. Mary CSS website.

Mr. Stanesic



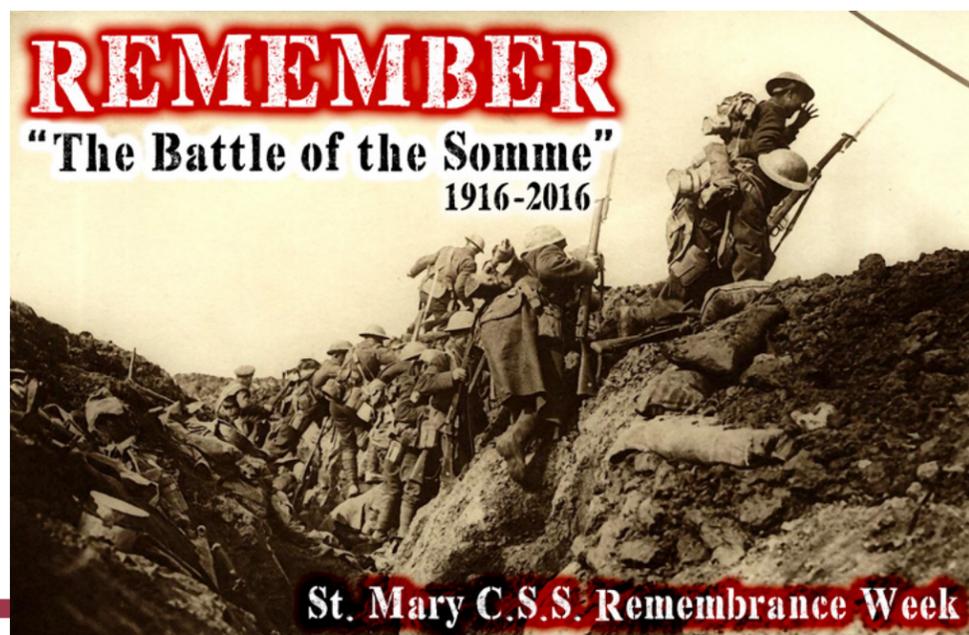
In Remembrance

In our world today it is often easy to glorify war and violence. We see it on the news, we hear it in our music and seem to be hit with it in most movies or TV shows. Our society has forgotten that war is not something to glorify, war is not something to enjoy war is a horrible and terrible thing. War is pain, war is suffering, war is sacrifice and war is death. Today I choose to remember those that knew what war was and still went because of the love of their country, love of their freedom and the belief that being a part of the human race means that we have to do something just because it is the right thing to do. Doing the right thing is hard sometimes. Even our lord Jesus asked God to spare him the suffering that he would face on the cross. But the brave men and women who freely volunteered understood, much like Jesus did, that doing what is right and what is asked of them isn't easy. They knew that all that is good in our world was worth dying for. I remember the young men who lay fallen in the mud 100 years ago during the Battle of the Somme, dying in a warm July morning, knowing that if that territory is won that the peace would be even closer. I remember the boy shot on Juno beach, giving his life to fight a great evil, knowing that countless lives depended on him and on his comrades. I remember the Canadians who traveled to Korea to fight for democracy and freedom, to act against a group that felt that strength and power lay in force. I remember the compassion that soldiers felt as their friends died in their arms, as they watched innocents die, as they held on to the hope that they would make it home to their loved ones. I remember them because they thought ahead to us. They fought for their future as much as they did for their present. They knew that the sacrifices they made on the battlefields of Europe or the hills of Korea or in the deserts of Afghanistan would affect the lives of countless others in the years ahead. They remembered Canada and all it stands for...so I remember them.

One of the themes this year was to Remember and Rejoice. Why rejoice in such sad events. We rejoice in the fact that they followed the example of Jesus, we rejoice in the fact that those who gave so much did finally find peace in God's kingdom and we rejoice in the lives that they gave for us. We also rejoice in those that came home, built a life and had families, some of which could be yours. We should also rejoice in our own lives. No matter how dark moments are we should always remember that, much like our soldiers in war, we have Christ there to comfort and protect us. We should rejoice in the peace, freedom and lives we are so fortunate to have thanks to our soldiers.

During Remembrance week you wear a poppy over your heart as a small personal act of remembrance. To truly remember these men and honour what they did we must live their example. We must show compassion to those who are suffering, hold the hand of those that need it; we must remember that there are somethings worth giving your life for. Look around the school today and think of all you have here. All of this is because brave Canadians were willing to fight for you. Today instead of focusing on what you see as bad in the school, focus on and celebrate what is good in the school. I remember what they gave by what I now have. I remember because I owe it to them. It is up to each one of us to take a moment, pause and reflect on what has been given so we can have all we have today. It is up to each of us to offer up our own prayers of thanks and remembrance to God.

Mr. Zimmer



Extended French Department

Every school year means new beginnings and changes. I would like to take a moment to share the new beginnings of the St. Mary Extended French Department.

First, I am excited to have begun my new role as Interim Curriculum Chair. There are many exciting things happening in our department this year that I am looking forward to. As we continue to grow, I would like to start by welcoming Madame Lawrynowicz to our department for this semester. She has taught in Columbia as well as the CEGEP Programme in Quebec. It is also my pleasure to welcome back Madame Zeenaeme-Hammond to the department. She has taught Core French at St Mary for many years, and will be teaching grade 9 and 10 Religion with us this year.

For this semester, Madame Lawrynowicz will be sharing her love of film, particularly of the French genre, with the school. She has begun a French film club that takes place every Thursday after school in her classroom. Our Extended French students are encouraged to attend.

I would like to welcome three foreign exchange students who have been attending classes for the start of the school year at St Mary. One of our grade 10 students and two of our grade 11 students will soon be headed off to France and Switzerland next semester as part of the International Student Exchange (ISE) program. We will have an information session coming up this semester for any students interested in participating in the ISE exchange program next year.

And finally, this year, to complement our programme, the St. Mary Extended French Department invites you to share with us the excitement of living and sharing with students from different parts of our country a winter wonderland all while using the French language. The opportunity is offered through the company "Perspectives" who have located their programme in Saint Donat, Quebec. We are offering the Saint Donat winter wonderland trip from Wednesday February 8, 2017 to Sunday February 12, 2017. Students can partake in skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and many other activities such as starlight skating over a lit forest trail. Students will be accompanied by myself, Mlle Oster, as well as Father Leo J. Austin, another school in Durham region. Any students wishing to attend should see Mlle Oster for more details. As always, do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Mlle Oster
Interim Curriculum Chair



News From Guidance

I am happy to report that we are off to a wonderful start this year. I feel blessed to work with such an amazing group of individuals each day as we serve the needs of our students by helping them to develop a greater awareness of self and their God-given talents and abilities. We look forward to an exciting year of growth and discovery!

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

Students should now be familiar with Career Cruising as most students have selected their courses on-line in past years using the Course Planner section of this website. 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 Career Cruising found on the Guidance webpage. 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.

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 will include information on volunteering, post-secondary information, scholarships, 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's 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.

As the parent or guardian of a child with a Career Cruising account, you can:

- View your child's goals, interests, achievements, and experiences
- Track your child's academic plans and progress
- Provide feedback to your child and his or her teachers and advisors
- Receive messages from your child's school
- Explore Career Cruising to learn more about career and education options

Included within each Report Card package, each student whose parent did not register for a Parent Account, should have received a letter containing all the information required to register. This will give parental access to much of their child's Career Portfolio.



News From Guidance Continued

Other News and Information from Guidance

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 on the Guidance webpage for information on important dates.

St. Mary hosted our annual Post-Secondary Fair on October 13th. It was an extremely successful evening, with an overwhelming response from both students and parents. Thank you for supporting this event! Grade 12 students, please be reminded that College Application workshops will be taking place on Nov 16-17th and the University Application workshops will be held on Nov. 23-24th. Students are reminded to check the lists (posted in Grade 12 homerooms and in the showcase outside Guidance) for their assigned workshops and report any problems to Guidance. Students interested in attending the Apprenticeship workshop at the end of November must sign up in Guidance.

Please visit our webpage at www.stmary.dcdsb.ca! We would like to thank Ms. Cayford for all of her hard work on the website. We take great pride in providing current and up-to-date information from topics like the transition to Grade 9 to post-secondary options. It offers a wealth of resources that students are encouraged to access on a regular basis.

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.

Ms. Stanesic
Curriculum Chair

Math CONTESTS

Math could 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 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. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, and March 21, 2017
Free of charge!
- 2) Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (2 1/2 hours) - Nov. 3, 2016
Note: Grade 11 and 12 students are invited to write it.
\$15 / contestant before Oct. 7, 2016.
- 3) Pascal (Gr. 9), Cayley (Gr. 10) and Fermat (Gr. 11) (60 min) - Feb. 28, 2017
Note: Grade 9, 10 and 11 students are invited to write it.
\$5 / contestant before Feb 8, 2017.
- 4) Grade 12 Euclid Contest (2 1/2 hours) - April 6, 2017
Note: Grade 11 and 12 students are invited to write it.
\$15 / contestant before March 17, 2017.
- 5) Fryer (Gr. 9), Galois (Gr. 10) and Hypatia (Gr. 11) (75 min)- April 12, 2017
Note: Grade 9, 10 and 11 students are invited to write it.
\$10 / contestant before March 22, 2017.

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/>