

Chaplain's Corner

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

As Semester Two unfolds and we begin to set our sights on the warmer days ahead, we would like to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of St. Mary staff and students who warmed the hearts of many through their charitable works and social justice efforts.

Over \$4000 was donated to Canadian Jesuits International thanks to the fundraising efforts of our International Outreach team; through bake sales, a juice bar, and a very successful Halloween Haunted House, St. Mary students were informed about the dangers of climate change while supporting hurricane relief efforts across the globe.

Looking to change the climate of our own school community for the better is St. Mary's Unity group. Promoting equity and inclusivity by focusing its efforts on our school's racialized students, the student-driven Unity group spent semester one receiving equity training by the Harmony Movement organization, Ontario's leading provider of training programs promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. The Unity group then prepared presentations for Grade 9 and 10 students which were met with great enthusiasm and support. In semester two, our 'social changemakers' will be visiting elementary feeder schools and sharing their knowledge with intermediate students.

Another way in which retreat leaders sought to educate and improve the school climate was through the inauguration of a Student Lounge and lunchtime lecture series. These workshops were created by retreat leaders who were inspired by the Durham Youth Drug Awareness Committee (DYDAC) student conference; themes such as 'healthy relationship life hacks' reinforced the importance of social and spiritual connection rather than substance use and abuse and encouraged students to 'select to connect' in meaningful ways.

St. Mary's Alliance for Compassion stood as a formidable example of our Christian call to service this Christmas season. Students and staff were encouraged to donate toiletries and other such essentials in the creation of 'Care Boxes' to support homeless LGBTQ+ youth. This successful initiative, the brainchild of Grade 12 student Tracy Noronha, one of our core retreat leaders, resulted in approximately 50 boxes donated to Covenant House in Toronto and the Refuge in Oshawa.

Our Domestic Outreach group truly were the hands and feet of Jesus Christ this Christmas. Thanks to their efforts and to the generosity of St. Mary staff and students, we were able to help approximately 70 families – or 215 individuals – within our community. Over 200 boxes of food and gifts and an additional \$15,000 in gift cards were collected during this year's Christmas Outreach drive, proof that "To Love and To Serve" is inscribed in our minds and hearts and made visible through the hard work and passion of St. Mary staff and students.

Looking ahead to Semester Two, this year's Lenten project will once again be supporting Development and Peace and their campaign which supports women's role in conflict prevention and in building just, sustainable and inclusive peace (see devp.org for more information). Furthermore, our Eco Team will be reaffirming our role as stewards of the earth by educating the St. Mary community on the disastrous effects of plastic water bottle use on the environment; water bottles are currently being collected in all classrooms to support this initiative. Through the efforts of our International Outreach team and in conjunction with Student Council, St. Mary will be hosting a Multicultural Night in March as a way of celebrating the diversity of our student population; stay tuned for more information. Lastly, our Retreat Leaders will participate in an overnight Social Justice Retreat at Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Retreat Centre in May, where they will fast for 25 hours in solidarity with those who are impoverished around the world.

***Yours in faith,
Ms. Spiers On behalf of Mr. Valookaran
Chaplain***



News From The Principal

We would like to wish all of our families at St. Mary a Happy and Healthy New Year. We ended the year with our annual Christmas Spirit Day. Our talent show displayed amazing and diverse talent including Mr. MacDonald and Mr. O'Brien singing a maritime ballad, "Barrett's Privateers". It is a 'slap your knee' sing-a-long with audience participation. It was a fun morning. Our much anticipated dodgeball tournament was fun and the competition fierce. Our staff team was thoroughly trounced and exited competition earlier than expected, with no injuries. That too is a success!

St. Mary continues to support those in need and this year we have helped many. We assisted Monsignor John Pereyma in establishing their own in house food bank similar to the one we have here. Our student leaders organized and ran a homeless youth initiative where they filled 48 shoeboxes full of toiletries. Half of the shoeboxes were delivered to Covenant House and the other half were delivered to The Refuge in Oshawa. We raised \$4000.00 for Hurricane and Flood relief and our Christmas Outreach was a huge success. We raised \$15000.00 in gift cards, collected 200 boxes of food and gifts supporting over 70 families most from our St. Mary Community. We say, "Thank-you!" to our parents, students and staff for the tremendous support you give to those in need.

Our arts department had a successful end of year with many performances. Our musical Mary Poppins was a smash hit and was one of the best musicals performed here at St. Mary. The cast and crew were exceptional and the performance was highly entertaining. Our community was treated to vocal, band, and dance performances that put us in the Christmas mood and showcased our highly talented students.

We congratulate our student athletes and teacher coaches for another outstanding season of athletics. We congratulate our students for their performance, effort and for being excellent ambassadors of St. Mary. Special mention to our jr. boys soccer team for winning LOSSA gold, sr. boys volleyball and sr. boys soccer winning LOSSA silver. In LOSSA Tennis Amelie Villumsen captured junior bronze in girls singles, Danila Todorov silver in open girls singles and Manuel Martinez silver in boys singles. We wish Daniela and Miguel luck as they compete at OFSAA in June. In cross-country, outstanding results were achieved by Katherine Lucas in the Senior Girl's division and Nathan Meraw in the Senior Boy's division. Emma Robson, in the Junior Girl's division, achieved the distinction of qualifying for OFSAA.

Our guidance department held a tremendously successful grade 8 parent night. Our cafetorium was overcrowded all the way back to our Learning Commons entrance. Many staff and students were present to demonstrate our many and varied opportunities and to answer questions. Our school will continue to thrive with the anticipated enrollment. Our guidance department will be meeting with students and handing out course option sheets so they can choose courses for next year. Please watch for those sheets coming home.

As semester one comes to an end, we hope your son/daughter reached their potential and achieved personal success. Setting personal goals and direction will help students achieve success. As we enter semester two staff and students get a fresh start and new resolve to improve and eliminate bad habits. We have a busy month starting semester two. We are celebrating Black History Month, Ash Wednesday, Anti-Bullying Week, Pink Shirt Wednesday, grade level assemblies, and MADD safe driving activity for grade 12 students. Grade 12 students are in the home stretch of their high school career. These five months will go by fast. Prom and graduation will be here in no time. Students are reminded to complete their forty hours of community service. Please see guidance for volunteering opportunities.

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

NEWSLETTER DESIGNED BY: Mr. Joel Pisani

NEWSLETTER EDITED BY: Ms. Giselle Sicchia

NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY: The Business SHSM Team

Fine Arts Department News

Dance and Drama

The Musical theatre and drama students, coming off the accolades of their stellar sold out show *Mary Poppins*, brought the semester to a close with their performance exams; students produced and staged their own excerpts from *Grease*, *Newsies*, *LaLa Land*, the *Adams Family*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Thank you to Ms. Freeman and Ms. Yukich for their commitment and direction talent, bringing musical theatre to life throughout the first semester!

Second semester drama will be a busy one with many performance elements in the grade 11 and 12 drama classes—the One Act Play unit, the Passion Play, and Story theatre for elementary students to name only a few!

Dancers hit the stage on January 18th in their showcase titled *One Step At a Time*: the showcase featured the grade 9 and 10 dance classes with the added attraction of some of our senior dancers who gave their time and talent to the show. Dancers are congratulated for a wonderful showcasing of their talent! Stay tuned in the spring for our Senior Dance Showcase! Thank you to Ms. Freeman who gives so generously of her time and expertise to the dance program!

Instrumental Music

The Instrumental Music Department is gearing up for a very busy second semester. In April, 53 students in grades 10-12 will be travelling to Whistler, British Columbia to compete at the Con Brio Music Festival. This incredibly exciting three-day festival, which takes over Whistler Village, will also give them a chance to be put together in a massive band with students from all over Canada and the United States in which they will also perform.

Mark your calendars for May. The spring Band Concert will be held on Thursday, May 10th at 7pm in the café featuring all four of the bands. In addition, we are so happy to announce that both our Intermediate and Senior Bands have been invited to compete again this year at Music Fest Canada. Both bands will compete at the University of Toronto on Monday May 14th. This is a national festival featuring bands from across Canada. Thank you to Ms. Puccia and Ms. Clarridge for their expert musicianship and commitment to our young musicians!

Vocal Music

The Vocal Department is busy preparing for their Spring concert. With costumes, choreography and great music, this concert should be the highlight of their year. Please mark your calendars for May 17, 2018 at 7:00 pm and plan to attend.

In addition to singing at Ash Wednesday, the Passion, Catholic Education Mass, the closing school Mass and Graduation, our singers will perform at Canada's Wonderland in May. We also have a special surprise scheduled for Anti-Bullying week. (Shhh – sorry, for alerting you to the secret!!) It's a busy semester, but the singers are up for the challenge. Thanks you for your continued support of our vocal department. Hope to see you all in May! Thank you as well to Ms. Yukich for filling our first semester with song—we look forward to the singing in second semester!

Media Arts and the Film Fest: Ambient

Do not miss the Annual St. Mary C.S.S. Grade 12 Film Fest and Digital Art Show at Landmark Cinemas in Whitby at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 12th, 2018. The Media Arts students will display their final digital art design projects and student short films at Landmark. They have been working on professional graphic design projects and short films throughout semester one. All of the student work is original—from the digital art and photography, from vector illustrations to cinematography—students have created fresh story ideas, styles and film techniques, using the

Adobe Creative Cloud software programs. You will see student short films, stop motion, mock commercials and digital artwork.

Tickets to Ambient are on sale at Landmark on the night of the show for only \$5. Ambient is a showcasing of students applying their artistry in current digital technology! Come on out to Landmark Cinema on Monday, February 12th and be prepared to be amazed by what the media art students bring to the film screen!! Thank you to Mr. Pisani for his commitment and design expertise in our media arts programming!

IMPORTANT Commencement Dates 2018

Please mark your calendar with these important dates:

- Commencement \$85 Fee Collection - *March 22nd and 23rd, 2018 (over the lunches, outside the cafeteria)*
- Community Service Hours submitted to Guidance - *April 13th, 2018*
- Completion of "Graduation Award/Bursary Reference Form" - *April 27th, 2018*
- Valedictorian Election in Homerooms - *May 9th, 2018*
- Mass and Commencement Breakfast - *June 8th, 2018*
- Exams - *June 20th – 26th, 2018*
- Commencement - *Wednesday, June 27th, 2018 at 2:00pm*
- Prom - *Thursday, June 28th, 2018*

Guidance News

**COURSE SELECTION SIGN OFF SHEET & ACTIVITY FEES
(paid by Cash on-line or Cash only) FOR NEXT YEAR WILL BE
COLLECTED ON Wednesday, February 21st 2018**

It is of utmost importance that parents make sure that their son/daughter returns these forms on this date to ensure that he/she will be registered at St. Mary for 2018-2019. Please Note: Activity fees must be paid by Cash on-line (by Feb 16th, 2018) or by Cash on the collection day.

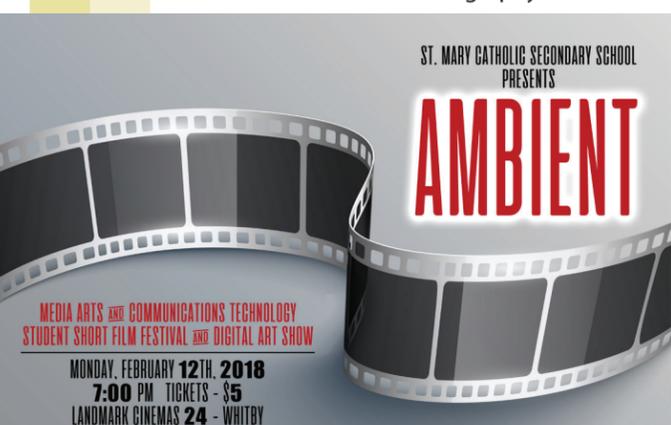
News From The Learning Commons

This semester our Learning Commons was happy to facilitate a number of special events including two guest speakers, a forensic science workshop, the Co-op fair, CPR training, Outdoor Ed workshops, two inquiry-based projects and much more!

We also celebrated another successful semester of Accelerated Reader testing and are happy to announce a new DCDSB student record for highest number of points accumulated. Grade 11 student Julia Cara broke her own previously set record by accumulating an AMAZING 1237.1 points and passing a total of 96 quizzes. Way to go Julia! Special mentions also go to Jade Branker for coming in second place and accumulating an impressive total of 1111.8 points. Great job everyone!

*Top scorers Julia Cara and Jade Branker
(photo on the right)*

*Ms. Hoofman
Curriculum Chair*



Guidance News

Career Cruising – Parent Portal

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

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

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to create an account using the Parent Portal.

Career Studies News! (GLC201)

Our school has been recognized by Chatter High for its remarkable efforts in "Canada's Most Informed School Competition". Chatterhigh.com is an informational e-tool which encourages students to speak and learn about their future career options in a fun and interactive way. St. Mary received a \$530 prize for coming in 5th on the leaderboard! The main teacher that contributed to this victory was Diane Rose. Congratulations to Ms. Rose and her students for their amazing work! Other events included the following: - Kevin Wilson, Youth Job Specialist with VPI Working Solutions, who led workshops on resume building and workplace communication

- Students learned about careers in agriculture and foods from Daniel Murphy, Teacher Ambassador from AgScape
- Asmaa Bacchus from Skills Ontario presented on What's Out There in the Skilled Trades and Technologies
- Jessica Steffler, Ontario Construction Trades Alliance, informed students about careers in the construction industry, and students had the opportunity to use an excavator simulator

College/University Applications

Congratulations to our college and university applicants upon completion of their applications to the post-secondary institutions of their choice. Many students have received correspondence from colleges and/or universities and must ensure that any supplementary information is submitted, if required. Some students may want to make amendments to their original applications after receiving final marks from semester one. Such changes should be completed as soon as possible. Students requiring assistance are asked to see their guidance counsellor. Although application deadlines for equal consideration have passed, **IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY TO SOME COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2018.**

College/University Open Houses

Students from all grades are encouraged to attend open houses during the March Break. Information is available in guidance.

Grade 8 Parent Night

Our Grade 8 Parent Night was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. It was a wonderful event, well received by an overwhelming number of families! We are humbled by the amount of support offered by both staff and students. This collaboration helped to give our prospective families a true sense of what St. Mary is all about. Many thanks to our School Council for its ongoing support and for its provision of coffee and refreshments, and an extension of gratitude to our Administration for their support and encouragement. We look forward to welcoming our new students in September 2018!

Pathways Workshop

Guidance was pleased to host an informational evening on Pathways planning and supports for our Grade 10 students and their families. Helpful resources for post-secondary planning were shared during the event. Families learned about the various pathways after high school and went away with a better understanding of where to find the most valuable information in order to make the most informed decisions moving forward.

Fine Arts Department News Continued

Fashion Design/Interior Design

The Visual Arts and Design courses came to a close in first semester with culminating tasks that included Fashion Blogs and Mini Style Collections completed in Fashion Design, and a complete Boutique Lobby Design Project that included an architectural done to scale velum drawing and illustration rendering in the Interior Design course. (Check out our 3-D printed kitchens in the showcase outside the Learning Centre!) Thank you to all my students for a great 1st semester! Hope to see many of you in gr 11 visual next semester! Ms. McDavid

Senior Visual and Senior Photography

Beyond an Edge: St. Mary CSS Annual Senior Art and Photo Show: Gala Feb 4th

ST. MARY C.S.S.
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS



City of PICKERING GALA OPENING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2018
PICKERING CIVIC CENTRE, 1 THE ESPLANADE S, PICKERING
EXHIBIT RUNS FEBRUARY 2ND THROUGH TO FEBRUARY 27TH

The Senior Visual Arts Students and Senior Photography Students have installed their works at the Pickering Civic Centre for the annual St. Mary Art and Photo Exhibit. The student works are a diverse display of sketch, water colour and acrylic painting, and dimensional/sculptural works by the Visual Arts Students: all photography by the Photo students is original 35mm and digital photography. The gala opening is February 4th from 11:30-2:30 with free admission and the work will stay on display until February 27th. The Pickering Civic Centre is adjacent to Pickering Library at 1 the Esplanade S. in Pickering.

For further information please contact Ms. McDavid (Visual Arts) or Ms. O'Leary (Photo).

ARTS AND CULTURE SHSM

ANY GRADE 10 STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT A PATHWAY IN THE ARTS— WHETHER IT BE GRAPHIC DESIGN, ANIMATION, VIDEO AND FILM, VISUAL MERCHANDIZING, EVENT PLANNING, THEATRE AND DANCE, MUSIC PRODUCTION...WHATEVER IT MAY BE, YOU PROBABLY WANT TO ENROL IN THE ARTS AND CULTURE SHSM PROGRAM!!



SEE MS. MCDAVID IN ROOM 161 OR IN THE ARTS OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A REGISTRATION FORM!!

SHSM STUDENTS IN GR 11 AND 12 – STAY TUNED FOR AN INDUSTRY SECTOR TRIP THAT IS BEING PLANNED FOR AFTER MARCH BREAK!!

Ms. McDavid
Curriculum Chair

REMINDERS

PA DAY: Friday, April 27th

March Break: March 9th – 16th

Canadian & World Studies & Social Sciences Department News

The grade nine geography classes had an exceptional semester this year. They brought all of their learning together for their ISU projects in the form of a United Nations meeting. The students had to research a country and act as a representative as we solved the world's problems! They also celebrated all of the countries with a great international food day! Next Semester's classes can look forward to all the yumminess too!

All grade ten food classes this semester created from scratch outstanding and uniquely decorated Gingerbread houses. Some students also prepared a meal for their family at home using classroom learned strategies and submitted their results using pictures and parental evaluation. All students participated in a research project requiring them to research a popular/well known Canadian chef and evaluate their chefs' skills against other Canadian chefs.

The grade eleven Food and Culture class explored various issues including Indigenous foods and sustainability and explored in depth a culture of their choice introducing the class to prepared dish representing that country. They finished the semester by designing a business plan, outlining how they would market, their new adventure a Food Truck—in the end they also cooked and showcased their delicious foods to staff members.

The grade twelve Food Classes participated in the annual Iron Chef competition. Five groups worked frantically to produce two dishes for a panel of judges.

The wining group served up mouthwatering Maple Bacon Wrapped Jumbo Shrimp and tasty Maple Nut Wafflewiches. Honorable mentions go to all members of the class as they beat the clock using "maple syrup" as their secret ingredient.

Our grade ten Civics students worked on a variety of activities highlighted by their culminating activity – The Civics Big Ideas Talk. Civic students are researching and creating presentations about topics that he or she is passionate about and how their Big Idea(s) could make a difference to their community or even the world! Civic students can join the St. Mary TED ED Club in grade eleven and twelve to continue researching their Big Idea and to work on their presentation skills. Civics students also met and heard talks from guest speakers including Father Tirkey from India (Human Life Development and Research Centre HLDRC) and Ms. Laura Marks from South Africa (Together We Give). Both speakers talked about their efforts to help the poverty and work situations in their communities.

Our grade eleven American History class visited Fort York in Toronto. Students learned about a soldier's life around the time period of the War 1812 by seeing their living quarters, learning about their weapons and cooking in an historic kitchen. The jumbles our students made were delicious!



Friend of St. Mary, returning guest speaker and Holocaust survivor, Elly Gotz returned to St. Mary in December to share his story of survival with Grade 10 history students. We found out that in addition to the enriching life lessons of tolerance and survival, Elly celebrated Canada's 150th by skydiving. A former pilot, he wanted to mark the day in an exceptional way! We also learned that Elly is finally going to put his memoirs to paper and a book is in the works.

The HSP3U courses (Intro to Anthropology, Psychology & Sociology) have had a busy semester. On top of all the everyday lessons and the semester long research report (using the Inquiry Method), we have had a number of different presenters come in and discuss various issues. These included Human Trafficking here in Durham Region (Covenant House), what to do when you find yourself in distress (Distress Centre of Durham) and learning

more about mental health and illness (TAMI). We also went to the zoo and were given tours and lessons on Primatology which included the similarities and differences between humans and primates. Lastly, over a three day span, the students participated in a Forensic Crime Scene in which they were the lead investigators trying to figure out what crime took place.

St. Mary Ambassador Update

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 found in classroom 238 for students interested in joining our great team in semester two. Students can earn community service hours for some of the events he/she volunteers for.

Mr. Stanesic
St. Mary Ambassador Supervisor



St. Mary Black History Student Committee

The 2017/2018 Black History Student Committee (BHSC) are working diligently in preparation for our upcoming Black History Month. Our theme this year is "Education is Advocation". Students are working on many initiatives including: Taste of Black Culture (Feb. 15th), morning announcements, a BHM display case, BHM Shirts, a student video, music, BHM Kahoot Challenge, a BHM Assembly and much more. Please visit the St. Mary CSS website for updates and/or follow us on [twitter@StMaryCWS DEPT](https://twitter.com/StMaryCWS_DEPT).

Thanks,
Black History (Student) Committee
Mr. Chadee
Ms Flynn
Mr. Moriah
Mr. Stanesic
Mr. Valookaran
Mr. Zimmer

ST. MARY C.S.S.
**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**



**BLACK HISTORY
COMMITTEE**
EDUCATION IS ADVOCATION

TASTE OF BLACK CULTURE 02/15
BHM ASSEMBLY 02/22

News From Health & Physical Education Department

OFSAA TRY DAY

Sport Focus: YOGA

Our 'Try Day' program; lead by Ms. Breugh introduced a new physical activity: YOGA to our current student body. Ms. Breugh's Yoga class (PAF 103) assisted in introducing this to the entire school body over the lunches in November of 2017. This program allowed all students the opportunity to engage in Yoga and learn a new way to "get moving". It introduced sustainable activities that benefit both present and future students, provided an opportunity for student leadership and encouraged regular daily activity as well as lifelong active participation.



NEW Physical Education COURSE OFFERINGS for 2018/2019 Calendar Grade 11: YOGA (Co ed)

St. Mary's Annual Christmas Dodgeball Tournament Donated \$1,000.00 to Heart & Stroke! Thanks to Ms. Smith & her Health for Life Class (PPZ3C) for organizing another memorable event!



Grade 9 Self Defense Program (Male & Female)

Master Anthony Tomlinson is a Fifth Degree Black Belt who has been teaching the martial arts for 30 years. He is the founder of the Youth Safety School Program that has been in existence since 1989. The program is taught to schools throughout Toronto, Durham and surrounding areas and gives students the necessary skills that will build an awareness of street safety as a way of life. Program goals: Enhanced Confidence, Positive Self Image, Personal Self Defense Skills, Improved Concentration, Leadership Training, and Improved Fitness.

Zumba

All girls phys ed classes took part in a day of fun fill Zumba with fabulous instructor "Amanda Grant" as a former Canadian Zumba® Education Specialist Amanda brings her passion, experience and knowledge for dance and fitness to her current role as Master Trainer for STRONG by Zumba, a high-intensity class led by music, where every beat has a move, and every move has a beat, creating a full body workout.

Family of Schools Basketball Tournaments

All of St. Mary Feeder Elementary School Basketball teams took part in a day of skill, drills and mini tournament to enhance their skills while having fun. This day is led by Mr. Joaquin and his Basketball Fundamentals Class (PPL4OB), as well as Mrs. Teasdale and members of both the JR & SR Boys & Girls St. Mary Basketball Team Members. It allows our elementary students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge while introducing them to the St. Mary Athletics Community.

St. Mary C.S.S. Family of Schools:

- Father Fenelon
- St. Elizabeth Seton
- St. Isaac Jogues
- St. Monica
- St. Wilfrid
- St. Joseph Uxbridge

Ms. Teasdale
Curriculum Chair

REMINDERS

Good Friday: March 30th
Easter Monday: April 2nd

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

The HPW3C course (Child Development) ran as a Dual Credit course this semester meaning that successful students receive both a high school credit as well as a college credit. There is a college professor that comes into the class twice a week so students are given the opportunity to learn what it is like to take a college course. We also went to Durham College and were given a tour of the facilities. Students also used their knowledge of the development of children ages 1-6 when we went to St. Elizabeth Seaton and were able to see the different abilities between the younger children in the daycare and those in kindergarten.

The grade 11 law classes were fortunate to have several guest speakers including a member of the Special Investigations Unit, (SIU) who spoke to the students about their role in police investigations. In Nov. we were proud to host Jarrod Singh a St. Mary alumni and a member of the Durham Regional Police Dept. Constable Singh presented on the benefits of social media and policing. His passion and work in policing lies with connecting humanity to the police badge. Jarrod informed and engaged the class and we look forward to having him back. Students were involved in finger print analysis and conducted a criminal law mock trial which enabled them to use what they witnessed on their Toronto court visit as well as the curriculum material as a basis for their well-executed performances.

Students in Ms Tiano's HHS4U classes had a guest speaker come in from the Denise House which provides a safe, supportive and inclusive environment to abused women and their children in Durham Region and strives to provide integrated, anti-racist, anti-oppression services to empower the diversity of all women to choose their own future. The Denise House further exists to educate the public at large about issues resulting from the abuse, oppression and discrimination of women and their children.

The department of Canada and World Studies/Social Sciences want to thank our students for all their hard work in semester one and we look forward to the start of a new semester. We wish continued blessings to our students and their families in the St. Mary community.

FNMI (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) and Canadian History

On November 28th and 29th, two Grade 10 History classes presented Inquiry Based Learning research in the Library Commons to peers and staff. Their task was to evaluate the impact of social and demographic change on aboriginal communities. In formulating a variety of questions, the students determined numerous areas that warranted investigation. These topics included FNMI: Healthcare, Children, Education, Living on a Reserve, Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Water, Environmental Issues and Urban and Indigenous.

"Learning in ever-changing environments demands new ways of educating- a focus on inquiry creative and critical thinking, multiple literacies, and working together to meet shared goals and knowledge building." (DCDSB)

Using the Inquiry Process and access to technology, the students found evidence of numerous disparities between the lives of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada. Their findings prompted numerous comments and further questions were raised that have yet to be answered.

Some responses from Mrs. Hudson's students ...

- How is it possible that the rights and opportunities of Indigenous Canadians is so different from non-Indigenous Canadian?
- It's hard to understand why all Canadians don't have access to clean water.
- Why has it taken so long for the tragedy of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women to gain national attention?
- How is it that we never knew of the injustices FNMI groups are facing until now?

Mr. Stanesic
Curriculum Chair



Math Department News

Understanding is the KEY to Success in Math

Learning math by understanding the concepts is much more effective than trying to memorize formulae and facts. The best way for students to ensure their own understanding and learning is through explanation and discussion. Albert Einstein stated "if you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough".

In addition, through understanding, students would be able to apply the concepts to solve any given problem. "Practice makes perfect" if and only if you have 'perfect' practice. That is to construct the skill in you, not to memorize only.

In addition, students should be encouraged to try different ways of thinking and problem-solving and to challenge themselves in a different format, such as mathematical contests.

Math contests are dedicated to bringing challenging mathematics materials to students to motivate students' learning and to build up confidence in mathematics with lots of fun! The results are not the most important thing, but the participation and the learning.

The Mathematics Challenge Contests are coming up!

Contest	Registration Deadline	Contest Dates	Fees
Pascal (Gr. 9) Cayley (Gr. 10) Fermat (Gr. 11)	February 5, 2018	February 27, 2018 Length: 60 minutes	\$ 6 / student
Fryer (Gr. 9) Galois (Gr. 10) Hypatia (Gr. 11)	March 21, 2017	April 12, 2018 Length: 75 minutes	\$ 11 / student
Euclid (Gr. 12)	March 20, 2017	April 11, 2018 Length: 2.5 hours	\$ 17 / student
Canadian Team Mathematics Contest	TBA	April 5, 2018 Length: 1 day	TBA

Please see Ms. Chang in room 213 or any mathematics teacher to sign up.

The more information about the contest, such as the old contests with solutions, can be founded from the following website www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca.

Congratulation to the Math Contestants

The mathematics department would like to congratulate the following students who have performed extremely well on the following contest:

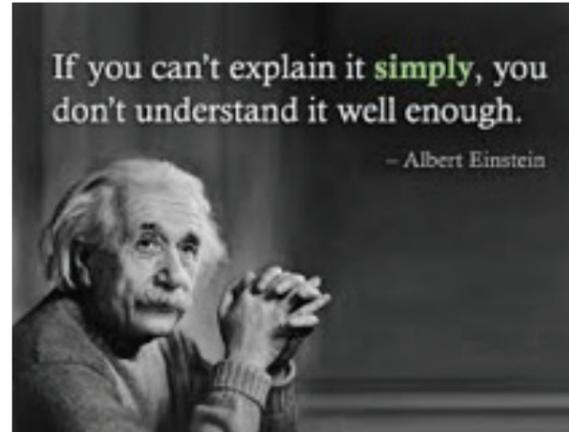
Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge:

1st Place: Leeam Ng Tang Fui (Performance with Honours)

2nd Place: Matthew Lee (Performance with Honours)

We also would like to congratulate **Sheldon Lewis** (a grade 8 student from our family of school) who has earned a **Silver Award** for this contest. Well Done!

Ms. Chang
Curriculum Chair



Cooperative Education Department News Continued

"I found my co-op placement very enjoyable for many reasons. I have always had a passion for working with kids and being able to do so for this past semester was a great experience. This opportunity was very rewarding because it helped me with my future post secondary goals. After high school I wish to continue my education with going to university. My co-op placement helped me get to this decision because many of the teachers at my placement who spoke to me about their education and what they recommend for my best interest." **Sara Phillips, grade 11, Altona Forest P.S.**



Joel - Grade 12
PTC Security



Cole - Grade 12
Stephens Small
Engine



Lily May - Grade 12
Ontario Early
Years Centre



Mya - Grade 11
Royal LePage



Tia - Grade 11
Lifemark
Physiotherapy



Sara - Grade 11
Altona Forest P.S.

Science Department News

The science department at St. Mary has been a very busy place this semester! Ms. Gallagher's science class welcomed a new addition, Charlotte the Guinea pig, to enrich their learning. Ms. Tyler's grade 12 biology class spent a day at UOIT performing a molecular genetics lab involving bacterial plasmids and gel electrophoresis, and then took a campus tour. The Grade 11 biology classes investigated mammalian anatomy and physiology while dissecting fetal pigs.

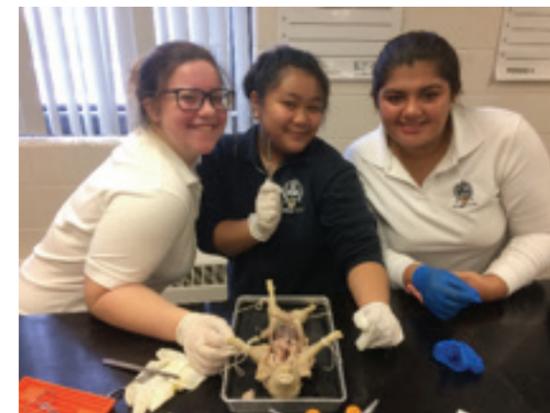
Science clinic runs every Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 – 4:00 pm in room 265. This is an excellent opportunity for students to make up missed labs or classwork. Many students also come to ask questions or to do homework.

A total of 12 rockets were successfully launched in the North field of the school. Students from Mr. Bulat's classes designed and built their own rockets with a goal of achieving straight flight, highest elevation and safe parachute return to Earth. This fun and educational activity finished off the Earth and Space Science Unit of the course in an uplifting fashion.

*Contest opportunity for grade 11 and 12 biology students:
- University of Toronto biology contest –
Thursday, April 26, \$7 student cost, deadline for entry is Feb. 28,
see Mr. MacDonald in room 201 for details.*

*Courses you may want to consider for next year:
Earth and Space Science SES4U1
Interdisciplinary Studies: Forensic Science IDC4U3
Science: (Health Studies) SNC4M1*

Ms. Tyler
Curriculum Chair



Cooperative Education Department News



On January 16th, students in this semester's cooperative education program shared information about their co-op placements including educational requirements to work in the field as well as labour market information through a Co-op Showcase, set up in the newly renovated Library Learning Commons.

Classes were invited to peruse the showcase and completed a scavenger hunt for information relating from essential skills and work habits, to the use of numeracy in a co-op placement, as well as connections to St. Mary Specialist High Skills Major programs (SHSM). Co-op students were proud to share their co-op experience with St. Mary staff and students; and some of our co-op supervisors also dropped by to support their co-op student!

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.

In Cooperative Education, students in Grade 11 and 12 have the opportunity to earn either 2 or 4 credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma while developing employability skills in a community work placement.

Students are given the opportunity to apply concepts and expectation of specific school subjects during a Cooperative Education work placement. For example, a student who has successfully completed Grade 11 Biology has an opportunity to apply their knowledge in a science related career such as a Fitness Centre, Veterinary Hospital, Physiotherapy Clinic, or Toronto Zoo. Students who are considering Skilled Trades or Apprenticeships may explore careers such as Automotive Service Technician, Electrician, Chef, Hairstyling, or Building Maintenance/Operations.

To apply for Cooperative Education (COP20 or COP40), students can pick up application forms from Guidance or the Co-op Office. Completed application forms can be submitted with their Course Selection Sheet or by February 21st to the Co-op Office. In March, applicants will be interviewed by a Co-op Teacher to review their personal readiness to be involved in a community work placement. Students accepted into the Co-Op program will be notified by the end of June for Semester 1 participants and end of November for Semester 2 participants.

Please see the St. Mary Co-op Department website [stmary.dcdsb.ca > Departments > Co-op] or call the Cooperative Education Department for more information. **Ms. B. Hunter x.56032 Ms. M. Wilson-Clark x.56033**

"I completed my placement at 'Rouge Valley Sports Injury and Wellness'. I learned how to use a new computer program called 'Abel-med', I created a website, I learned a whole new filing system. I developed customer service skills, oral communication skills, problem solving skills, teamwork skills, reliability skills, organization skills, and initiative skills. I can apply these skills to future jobs and tasks that come my way." Nicole Pater, grade 11, Rouge Valley Sports Injury & Wellness

"I completed my placement at Merle Norman cosmetic studio. During my co op placement I learned basic cleaning and store maintenance skills that will help me in any job I have. I learned skills that will help me with my future career as an esthetician such as waxing and threading. I also enhanced my mental math skills by adding up prices for customers without using the computer. Lastly, I learned how to disinfect tools which is something I will need to know how to do when I start my career." Allison Locke, grade 12, Merle Norman mester was a great experience.

Department of English & Modern Languages News

The department of English and Modern Languages continues to set direction and improve the instructional program at St. Mary. We set attainable goals grounded in data and best practice. Through these goals we support students embodying excellence and equity by embracing the Catholic graduate expectations. The department continues to improve its ability to address needs in these areas through professional development and building capacity through shared learning.

Recently, department faculty participated in a working session with the DCDSB indigenous education teaching/learning consultant. We did some learning around the controversial history of indigenous peoples in Canada, and the extent to which educators can address this history in classroom learning environments in respectful and equitable ways. We also discussed strategies to incorporate indigenous elements including, but not limited to: literary and non-fiction works, treaty documents, film, media, pop culture and graphic novels in our English and Modern Language curricula.

On a related note, some faculty is participating in a collaborative inquiry group that is exploring the role of indigenous education in the department. Ms. Carnovale, Ms. Coffey, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Longo, Mme. Mallen and Mme. Zeenaeme, in collaboration with DCDSB teaching and learning consultants, are learning about ways to improve student communication and critical thinking through the lens of indigenous education.

Our department has also made great strides in addressing student learning needs in literacy and numeracy. We do so through a collaborative inquiry approach to lesson and unit planning, but also through in-service from experts such as consultants in the field of language and mathematics. The literacy committee, for example, is involved in a board project that focuses on closing learning gaps in grades 7-10. Ms. J. Carnovale, Mr. J. Longo and Ms. L. Sprung are currently involved in this working group. Recently, we co-taught literacy lessons to Grade 9 students with teachers from St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Elementary School.

Our Core French students from Mme. Zeenaeme, M. Partlow and M. Lamont's classes participated in Chef à l'école. Students made "chocolate fondant," and a specialty chocolate chai tea. All had fun enjoying the authentic French language and cultural experience.

In December, M. Partlow's Grade 11 Core French students participated in Skype sessions with Mme. Narel's Grade 2 class from St. Joseph French Immersion Centre in Bowmanville. The St. Mary students were impressed by the French language skills of the young children while engaging in fun conversations with their new friends.

Lastly, Ms. Raponi's Grade 10 Italian class celebrated Christmas with many homemade and traditional foods prepared by students to celebrate Italian language, culture and history. Mr. Longo was invited as an expert taste-tester and let's just say he ate his fair share of the delicious foods and tasty treats! (I am Mr. Longo, and I approve this message)

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

Mr. Longo
Curriculum Chair



St. Mary Cash on Line Update

Congratulations to all parents that have registered their child through the St. Mary C.S.S. Cash on line system. We have reached 1000 students registered which means we are 2/3 there in terms of registration! Remember that by registering, you will receive all notices regarding trips, events, sport teams, phys. ed. uniform purchases and any other activities that require payment pertaining to your child. You have the option to pay through Cash on line (St. Mary's preferred method of payment) for these items. By using this option for payment, your child will not have to carry any money to the school, and you can also be assured that the item has been paid for. Alternately, you have the option to pay cash directly to the Teacher/Coach.

In December, we tweeted out a contest to parents of grade 12 students, that if they registered by Dec. 31st, a draw would be held in January for one free Graduation fee and one free Prom ticket. Congratulations to our winners: Christopher Calvelli for winning his Graduation fee and Cainnear McAllister winning a free Prom ticket.

By the time you read this, our next incentive that was tweeted out, will have been completed. We invited all parents of grade 9, 10 and 11 students to register by Jan. 31, in order to be eligible to enter into a draw for a Student Activity Fee being paid (\$75 value). There will be one lucky winner from each grade level. The winners will be announced on the school twitter account. As you can see, it can pay to register your child with the Cash on line program, and to follow our Twitter account for any upcoming events/incentives.

Ms. Symington
Financial Secretary

Business Department News

Why you should consider joining the Business SHSM program... Recently over a third of Canada's workforce of approximately 14.5 million people was employed in the fields of trade and commerce, finance and insurance, administration and support, and real estate and leasing. As the central pillar of Canada's economy, the business sector is bursting with opportunities, stretching from positions as accountants and clerks to administrators and retailers. As long as there is commerce, qualified and knowledgeable workers in business will find prospects either in one of Canada's prospering companies or as an entrepreneur in one of their own.

The SHSM-Business enables students to build a foundation of sector-focused knowledge and skills before graduating and entering a post-secondary destination, whether it be apprenticeship training, college, university, or an entry-level position in the workplace. Depending on local circumstances, the SHSM-Business may be designed to have a particular focus – for example, on entrepreneurship, finance, accounting, retail, marketing, international business, business leadership, information and communication technology, economics, management and administration, or event planning.

Pursuing the Specialist High Skills Major-Business enables students to:

- *customize their secondary school education to suit their interests and talents while meeting the requirements for the OSSD;*
- *help prepare for a post-secondary destination of their choice in this economic sector;*
- *designed with the flexibility to allow students to shift between pathways (e.g., switch from a pathway leading to college to an apprenticeship pathway) or to discontinue the SHSM program should their career plans change in Grade 11 or 12;*
- *provide evidence of achievement of the required components of the SHSM (e.g., sector recognized certifications) for prospective employers and post-secondary educational institutions;*
- *explore, identify, and refine career goals to make informed decisions about their post-secondary options*
- *have a great opportunity for in grades 11 and 12.*

Mr. Belmonte
Curriculum Chair

St. Mary Non-Profit SHSM Update

St. Mary's Non-Profit Faith Leadership Specialist High School Major (NPSHSM) has been very busy in November and December. 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. 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.

The Non-Profit SHSM students can complete their experiential learning expectations by either helping with our Canadian Food For Children (CFC) Program or the St. Mary TEDx (Technology, Entertainment and Design) Conference in Oshawa this upcoming April. Our NPSHSM goal to donate approximately 40,000 pounds of donations to CFC including gently used clothing, glasses and bicycles to reach the school's ONE MILLION pounds of donations since this initiative began years ago. NPSHSM students helping with our 6th StMaryCSSchool TEDx conference attend meetings to help plan this wonderful community event that brings over 1000 students from DCDSB together to hear talks" which are cross-disciplinary focused on the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world. Learning, inspiration and wonder."

Non-Profit SHSM students participated/attended in reach ahead activities. On November 9th, NPSHSM had the opportunity to meet and hear Ms. Laura Marks from Together We Give. Laura spoke about her inspirational work in the poorest province of South Africa, and how she's trying to help decrease their high employment rate. NPSHSM students attended the Development & Peace Student Day on November 22nd. On November 29th, our Chaplain and Uju Unmenyi (from Canadian Jesuits International) brought a special guest- Father Tirkey from Human Life Development and Research Centre to speak about poverty experienced by tea plantation workers in India.

On December 1st, Mr. Elly Gotz did his "Ethics and International Law" presentation for NPSHSM and Business SHSM students. A few of our students also completed First Aid and CPR certifications in the month of December as well.

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.

Thanks,
Mr. Valookaran & Mr. Stanesic



USED UNIFORM SALE
THURSAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2018
AT 7:00 PM