

SAINT MARY SCHOOL

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Lenten Prayer

Loving God, you call us back to you with all of our hearts.
I can feel your call for me deep in my heart
And I know you want me back as much as I want to return.
Please Lord, give me the wisdom to know how to return.
Make my journey back to you this Lent one of grace, forgiveness
and gentle love.
Amen

Forty Items in Forty Days

Saint Mary School's Lenten Food Drive begins on March 5 and will continue until Holy Thursday on March 29, 2018. Please check your cupboards for items and think of those for whom the cupboard is bare. Thank you to Mrs. Webster and her Gr. 2/3 class for spearheading this very important activity. Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for suggested items and remember to check expiration dates.



Holy Week @ Saint Mary March 26-30, 2018



On Holy Thursday, we will join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world who do not have enough to eat, during our annual Hunger Meal. Don't forget to send in a bowl, cup, spoon and a small **\$2 donation**

with your child that we will forward to the Share Lent campaign. Students will also follow in the steps of Jesus as they journey through the Stations of the Cross.

Family Place Restaurant CSCC Fundraiser

Join us at Family Place Restaurant on Wednesday March 21st from 4:00 – 8:00 pm for our CSCC Fundraising Night!

Family Place Restaurant has generously agreed to donate 14% of their food sale for this event back to the school. Parent Council will use this donation to put back into the school.

Bring your family and friends, share on social media, and be part of this tasty fundraiser! Be sure to write "Saint Mary's on the back of your bill. If you can't make it consider ordering take out (705) 789-5602 and let them know you want to support Saint

Mary's School!

Nordic Ski Team & Intermediate Volleyball Teams

Congratulations to our Nordic Ski Team who competed at Classic Ski Race at Arrowhead on February 6. Thank you to their coaches Mrs. Webster and Mrs. Baumgart and to the parent volunteers for all of their efforts.



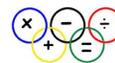
Our intermediate volleyball teams both had a very successful season. Both teams competed at the area championships on February 27, 2018. Our Boys team is to be commended as they took home second in the finals. Congratulations to the Girls team for taking home the B championship title. Thank you to Mrs. Godard and Mr. Foxcroft for their commitment to coaching and to all of the parents who volunteered to drive throughout the season. Check out our Facebook page for photos!

District Knights of Columbus Free Throw Champions!



The St. Dominic gym was buzzing with excitement on February 10, 2018 during the District Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw competitions this past month. Students ages 9-14 shot 25 free throws with the following students capturing district championship title. Students now have the opportunity to compete on Saturday March 3, 2018 in Sturgeon Falls. Congratulations to our District Champions: Grace F., Sophia W., Brayden M., Charlie K., Piper L., and Jack R.

SMCDSB Math Olympics



On Thursday March 7, a group of 4 intermediate students will travel to Barrie to compete in the Math Olympics at the SMCDSB board office. Our junior contestants will take part in the Junior Math Olympics on Tuesday March 20. We wish them well as they work on individual and group math problems in this exciting competition and we thank Mrs. Baumgart for coaching.

VexIQ Robotics



On March 5, a group of intermediate students will travel to Barrie to learn all about the VexIQ Robotics at the SMCDSB board office. We wish them well as they learn all about these robotics in preparation for the first annual elementary competition that is being held in Barrie this spring. We thank Mrs. Webster for coaching these students!

News from the Leadership Team

"Winter" Activity Day – Olympic Theme!

We have tweaked our "Winter" Activity Day due to the weather conditions. It will now take place on Tuesday March 6, 2018. Please ensure that your child dresses for the weather.

Hockey Tournament

On Thursday March 30 a number of Saint Mary School students will hit the ice in Parry Sound with other SMCDSB Muskoka-Parry Sound schools for a fun filled tournament. We wish them a safe drive and a great day! Thank you to Mr. Foxcroft for organizing this event and attending with the students.



Triple P Positive Parenting Programs

To the parents who feel alone, raising kids can be hard, challenging and messy. You are not alone! Triple P Positive Parenting programs can help. Call Health Connection at 1-877-721-7520 for one-on-one support over the phone, choose a group session close to home or an online course. Check out www.triplep-parenting.ca.



Superintendent Ab Falconi Named Director of Education for YCDSB

A message from Brian Beal, Director of Education:

On behalf of the entire community of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, I am pleased to announce that effective April 3, 2018, Mr. Ab Falconi, Superintendent of Education, will become the Director of Education of the York Catholic District School Board. Ab has served with distinction as classroom teacher, vice-principal, principal, and Supervisory Officer of our board for the past 28 years.

Carol Corriveau-Truchon, Board Chair, expressed deep appreciation, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, for their work with Mr. Falconi. "Through his leadership in Special Education, Safe Schools and the school communities he has served, Ab has impacted the growth and success of every student at Simcoe Muskoka Catholic. We will miss his professionalism and spiritual leadership, but wish him continued success in his work with York Catholic."

"SMCDSB holds a very special place in my heart. I appreciate all of the learning and support that I have received during my journey over the past 28 plus years. I will miss the fantastic people who make the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board such a tight knit and faith-filled community."

We wish Mr. Ab Falconi tremendous success in his new role, and know that the staff, students, and families of the York Catholic District School Board will be in very capable hands under his careful faith-based stewardship.

Brian Beal
Director of Education

Kindergarten Registration 2018-2019

If you have a child who will be turning 4 years old in 2018, please let us know and we will send a registration package home. Also, if you know of a parent who has a child who will be kindergarten age, please have them contact us as soon as possible.

From Our Trustee...

Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire. (St. Catherine of Sienna)



I had the pleasure of welcoming St. Dominic student Anna Szumska to the SMCDSB Board table as our Student Trustee-elect. She joins our current Student Trustee, McKenna McCoy, another St. Dom's student, to bring the voice of our 21,000 students to our decisions.

As I reflected on the fact that 3 of our last 6 student trustees have come from St. Dominic, I thought about all of the opportunities DOMS students have to explore their leadership potential. In a small school, youth have the chance to take risks in a really safe environment. I know my children benefitted from being Peer Support Workers and taking leadership roles on Student Council, when they may not have taken those chances in a larger school.

Parents have a lot of difficult decisions to make during their children's teen years. I know that we didn't always make the right ones, but we never regretted the decision to send our children to St. Dom's. They formed lasting friendships and bonds with staff and students that have helped them to find success at university and in the careers they followed after post-secondary. The amazing staff, small class sizes, leadership opportunities and Catholic curriculum helped them develop into caring adults.

I look forward to hearing more great ideas from our Student Trustees as they represent the SMCDSB student voice!

God Bless,
Carol Corriveau-Truchon

Dates to Remember...

- Mar 5 Vex IQ Robotics Team to Barrie
CSCC Meeting @ 6:30 pm in library
- Mar 6 Leadership Winter Activity Day (after lunch)
IEPs for Term 2 Sent Home
- Mar 7 Winter Wonderland Semi Formal Dance (Gr. 6-8)
- Mar 8 Intermediate Math Olympics in Barrie
- Mar 11 Daylight Savings
- Mar 12 – 16 Happy March Break! See you on the 19th!
- Mar 20 Junior Math Olympics in Barrie
- Mar 21 Rosary Team
Family Place CSCC Fundraiser 4:00 – 8:00 pm
- Mar 23 Mass @9:15 am in gymnasium (Foxcroft)
- Mar 29 Holy Thursday Hunger Meal
Hockey Tournament @ Bobby Orr Arena in Parry
- Mar 30 Good Friday (no classes)
- Apr. 2 Easter Monday (no classes)

LENTEN

FOOD DRIVE

40 Donations in 40 Days!

St. Mary School is teaming up with the Saint Vincent de Paul to provide food to those in need in our community.

Each class at St. Mary School is asked to collect one food item for each day in Lent. That means that each class is asked to donate 40 grocery items, but you are certainly welcome to donate more! Mrs. Webster's class will be collecting and counting the food each day. Donations will be graciously accepted beginning Monday, March 5th and ending the Thursday before Easter – March 29th.

Please make sure to check expiry dates on donated items please!

Needed items include but are not limited to:

- soup
- crackers
- tin pasta
- juice boxes
- sugar
- canned vegetables
- hamburger helper
- pancake mix
- toothpaste
- laundry soap
- cereal
- jam
- bar snacks (granola)
- fruit snacks
- can tuna, salmon, ham
- canned fruit
- noodles and sauce
- syrup
- facial tissues
- dish soap
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- cheese snacks
- tea, coffee
- oil
- pork and beans
- rice
- condiments
- paper towels
- bar soap

Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity. Together we can make a difference!



HOLY THURSDAY @ Saint Mary's School March 29, 2018



HUNGER MEAL

\$2.00 suggested donation for "Share Lent"

"When Lord did we see you hungry or naked, or thirsty, or a stranger, or in prison and we would not help you." And the Lord answered. "I tell you, whenever you refuse to help any of these, you refuse to help me."

Saint Mary's School Holy Thursday events are provided as a time for us all to reflect upon how much we have and to join together in appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

For the Hunger Meal, the expectation is that all students in Grades 4-8 will participate. For students in Gr. JK-3 it is optional. During the Hunger Meal, the expectation is that your child will be able to sit quietly and reflect upon the symbolism of the food that they will be consuming during lunch. The symbolism may be beyond the understanding of younger students and so participation will be left up to the discretion of their parent. Please complete the form below for students in Gr. JK-3 so we have an accurate count for food preparation. Please refrain from sending snacks for your child on this day.

All previous hunger meals have been successful in that they have raised the awareness of our children with regards to world hunger as well as allowing us to donate to the "Share Lent" campaign.

- All children are asked to eat a full, healthy breakfast. Please do not pack snacks or lunch for your child if he/she is taking part in the Hunger Meal. There will not be the Healthy Snack program on this day.
- Students will gather in the gym at lunch and will receive 1 cup of rice, 1 piece of bread and one cup of water... a fraction of what we as North Americans typically eat but more food than millions of people around the world consume in an entire day...
- **Students are asked to bring a \$2 donation to be forwarded to the Share Lent Campaign as well as their own bowl, cup and spoon.**
- *The money we collect will be donated to the "Share Lent – Development and Peace" fundraising campaign. Children may bring their money to school on Thursday morning but if they forget, we will accept donations during the week after Easter too.*

Please detach and return by Tuesday March 27, 2018 for students in Grade JK, SK, 1, 2, 3

Saint Mary's Hunger Meal – Holy Thursday March 29, 2018

My child _____ in Grade JK SK 1 2 3 (circle please)

- Will participate in the Hunger Meal in the gym
- Will not participate in the Hunger Meal. I will send his/her regular lunch to be eaten in the classroom.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____