

SAINT MARY SCHOOL

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As we begin December we enter into the season of Advent – a new liturgical year and a time of preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of our Saviour. Each morning, staff will be invited to a morning prayer or reflection around the Advent wreath in the front hall. I invite you to take some time with your family to reflect on the blessings of the seasons as well.

Advent Prayer

*Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
ever faithful to your promises
and ever close to your Church:
the earth rejoices in hope of the Saviour's coming
and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time.
Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us
from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow,
for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.*



News from St. Mary of the Assumption Church

On Sunday December 4, all children are invited to bring their families to attend the monthly children's mass at 11:00 am at St. Mary of the Assumption Church. Children will be doing the readings, ushering people to their seats, leading they hymns etc.

Mass Schedule for Christmas & New Year's

December 24 @ 4:00 pm	St. Mary's Church, Huntsville <i>Children's Mass</i>
December 24 @ 6:00 pm	St. Kateri Church, Baysville
December 24 @ 8:00 pm	St. Mary's Church, Huntsville
December 25 @ 10:00 am	St. Mary's Church, Huntsville
December 31 @ 4:00 pm	St. Mary's Church, Huntsville
January 1 @ 9:00 am	St. Kateri Church, Baysville
January 1 @ 11:00am	St. Mary's Church, Huntsville

Sacramental Preparation Meeting - December 1 @ 6:30 p.m.



The second meeting for the parents/guardians and children who will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Thursday December 1 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. in the church hall.

Saint Mary's Christmas Concert



A long standing Christmas tradition is our school Christmas concert. Saint Mary's students will present a variety of performances for your enjoyment on **Thursday December 15, 2016 at**

6:00 pm Please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to our food drive if you haven't already done so.

Advent Mass @ Saint Mary's School

Father John will be at Saint Mary's School to celebrate mass with our school community on Tuesday December 20, 2016 @ 10:45 a.m. Mrs. Begg's Gr. 2 class will be taking the lead organizing the mass. All are welcome to join us ... we would love to have more parents, guardians and grandparents attend our school masses!



Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations

In November we celebrated the Catholic Graduate Expectation of "A Discerning Believer". Thanks to Mrs. Smith's Gr. 5 class for the bulletin board display. In December, we will be celebrating "An Effective Communicator". Thanks to Mr. Foxcroft's Gr. 5/6 class for the display.

Hat & Mitten Tree

Mrs. Park's Gr. 8 class will once again be collecting new hats, mittens, socks and scarves to donate to others who need them. Please send new items to school with your child and they will be used to decorate the tree in the front hall (not to mention, warm the hands, feet and heads of others!)



Gum Chewing Day December 9!

Yes, Saint Mary's students will be permitted to chew gum on Friday December 9, 2016 for a small donation of \$1.00 Students who donate a loonie towards the sponsorship of a local family, will be provided with a piece of chewing gum AND the privilege of chewing it! Thanks to Mrs. Park's Gr. 8 class for organizing this!



Saint Mary's Support St. Vincent de Paul

Our Saint Mary's School community has always done an amazing job of supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Drive. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Webster and her Grade 3/4 class for spearheading this activity again this year and to those students who decorate the delivery boxes. Check out the food donation box in the front foyer of the school on your next visit. A food donation calendar was sent home a week or so ago but you may send any type of non-perishable food or other items (facial tissue, toilet paper, diapers, soap, etc.) in at any time. There is such a need for this service to our community. Your support is not only greatly appreciated, but also desperately needed.



Food Sorting for St. Vincent de Paul Society & Salvation Army

Saint Mary's students will once again be sorting food for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Salvation Army following their annual Christmas



food drives. Our students' hard work is a visible sign of "Christ in Action" during the Advent season in our Huntsville community. We are so proud of them for giving of themselves in this way!

Staff Appreciation Christmas Gifts



It is getting closer and closer to the holiday season and the staff of Saint Mary's School are asking that instead of spending money on a gift for them, if you would please put your money towards a larger cause such as your choice of charity or towards refugee relief.

We appreciate you thinking of us but with so many people in our community and in the world desperately needing assistance it would make us very happy to know that you provided support to others.

News from the Green Team!

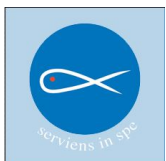
Thank you to everyone who donated to the EcoKids Battery Busters Contest. The contest only ran for a week this year but Saint Mary's was still able to send in 6 boxes (35 pounds each) of batteries to be recycled! Wow great effort and great for our environment! The winning school has not yet been announced but we are all winners when we divert used batteries from the landfill! Just a reminder the Green Team continues to recycle batteries year round. a drop off box is in between the front doors or you can visit Buster the Battery Busting Monster by the library. Thanks again! The GREEN TEAM

Inclement Weather...



Just a reminder, for bus cancellation information, listen to the local radio stations (Moose 99.5 / Moose 105.5/ Hunter's Bay 88.7) check our board website <http://www.smcdsb.on.ca> (we are listed under "District of Muskoka" not the Simcoe County zones) or the school's transportation consortium website <https://www.mybustoschool.ca> Even if the buses aren't running, the school is open for drop off by parents after 8:20 a.m. and parents must come in to sign their child in. If the inclement weather day is a food day (Wednesday, Friday) the food is cancelled and your child will be given a credit for the next month. Milk will continue as usual but your child will need a lunch. All students need to be picked up by 3:30 p.m. at the latest. Afterschool care runs as scheduled on inclement weather days.

Support for Families...



From time to time families may find that things are very hard financially and it is a struggle to provide adequate food, warm clothing or even shelter for their children. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a very dedicated, caring group of people whose mission is to provide assistance in a completely confidential

manner. Families in need may leave a message with the St. Vincent de Paul Society at 705-789-0008 and someone will be in touch to provide more information and the assistance that is available. If you wish to make a donation to this self-less organization, you may call the same number and leave a message.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)



Head lice can be a nuisance and are easily transmitted to others – especially in school where children are in close contact with each other. Personal hygiene has **nothing** to do with an infestation and a child can be seemingly clear one day and have nits a couple of days later. Regular checks are necessary to prevent the spread of lice.

Grade 7 & 8 Information Night at St. Dominic CSS... bring a friend!



A secondary school information night will be held on THURSDAY JANUARY 12, 2016 at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School for all Grade 7 and Grade 8 parents and students, including those who are attending public elementary schools. The night will be geared towards providing you with information regarding all aspects of the St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School community: academics, co-curricular activities and how they can support and empower your child no matter where they are on their faith journey. You will also meet the staff of St. Dom's who will extend the same care, support and personal encouragement your child has experienced at Saint Mary's.

If you have any questions throughout the year please do not hesitate to call the school at (705) 646-8772 X356 and speak with Ms. Starratt in the Student Services Department or Principal Mr. Kevin Strong or Vice Principal Mr. Joe Conway, both at extension 300.

From Our Trustee....

Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of people.



Saint Teresa of Calcutta

In November the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee held the Catholic School and Community Council Commissioning Service in Barrie. The evening began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Kirkpatrick, followed a number of information sessions. The topics included First Nation, Metis and Inuit Education; Inclusion, Mental Health and Wellness; Renewed Math Strategy; and Volunteerism & School Council Best Practices. I attended a session on the New Religious Education Curriculum, which was really informative! Board Office staff facilitated all of the discussions and I'm sure that many of them would be available to come to individual schools should you wish to hold a Parent Evening sometime this year.

I am looking forward to attending as many Christmas Concerts and Events as possible again this year. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to Celebrate God's Family through their excitement.

I would like to close with a blessing that I found and shared at our Trustee Christmas Dinner.

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful for each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love. In our gratitude and love we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life this Christmas season and forever. Amen.

Merry Christmas!
Carol Corriveau-Truchon

Dates to Remember...

Sunday December 4 @ 11:00 am

- Family Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Church followed by the annual Christmas party for children in the hall – *all are welcome!*

Monday December 5 @ 6:30

- Catholic School Community Council Meeting in the school library

Thursday December 8 & Friday December 9

- Dental Screening (Gr. JK,SK, 2, 4, 6, 8)

Friday December 9 @ 5:45 pm- 8:00

- Saint Mary's Family Movie Night "Finding Dory" (Gr. JK-5) and "Holes" (Gr. 6-8)

Wednesday December 14

- Rosary Apostolate

Thursday December 15 @ 6:00 pm

- Saint Mary's Christmas Concert

Friday December 16

- Gr. 7&8 students to DOM

Monday December 19

- Reconciliation @ Saint Mary School

Tuesday December 20 @ 10:45 am

- Advent School Mass at Saint Mary's School
- Webster Gr. 3 /4 and Park Gr. 8 to sing at the Senior's Luncheon @ 1:00 pm – Faith Baptist Church

Thursday December 22 @ 2:15

- Staff v.s. Student Basketball Game

Friday December 23

- Board Holiday – Have a most blessed Christmas holiday!

