

## SAINT MARY SCHOOL

36 Silverwood Drive Huntsville, Ontario  
P1H 1N1

Phone (705) 789-6481  
[smhoffice@smcdsb.on.ca](mailto:smhoffice@smcdsb.on.ca)

### February Prayer

February 3 is the Feast of Saint Blaise, who is the patron saint of those with throat ailments and February 11 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes as well as the world day of prayer for the sick. For those who are ill physically, spiritually or emotionally we pray...

Accept the prayers we offer  
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,  
that having been anxious for them in their  
danger, we may rejoice at  
their recovery of health.

Amen



### Family Mass - Sunday February 5, 2017 @11:00 am

The first Sunday each month is Family Mass at the St. Mary of the Assumption Church. Children take on the roles of readers, ushers, altar servers and choir. This is an excellent way to make mass more meaningful for your child(ren) and the people in the parish love seeing the students take on these leadership roles! Please let Mrs. Webster or Mrs. Baumgart know if your child is interested in taking part. The next Family Mass is February 4<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am All families of all faiths are welcome to attend and participate!

### Saint Mary School Has A New Sign!

You may have noticed something new at the front of Saint Mary School recently – we finally have a message board sign! Thank you to our Catholic



School Community Council for this important communication tool. Our hard working council can always use extra volunteers to help with activities – it is never too late to join us. The next meeting is on Monday February 5, 2017 @ 6:30 in the library.

### PA Day - Friday February 3

Just a reminder that Friday February 3 is a PA day. Staff will be busy completing assessment of student learning as they work on report cards.

In November, students and parents received the "Progress Report" where the focus was on student work habits and learning skills. On Wednesday February 22, 2017, students will bring home their Report Card that captures student learning from September to February. This report card will contain marks/grades, comments, and a continued focus on work habits and learning skills. The final report card of the school year will be issued at the end of June and will capture student learning from February to June.



### Family Winter Fun Night Thursday February 16, 2017

6:00 pm–7:30 pm

Saint Mary's Catholic School Community Council once again invites you to our annual "Winter Family Fun Night" at our school. Grab your helmet and your slider and glide down our tobogganing hill. Make use of our school snowshoes and our X-country skis and venture out on a nighttime trek with your child. (Limited youth sizes – you may need to bring your own adult sized skis)

Please bring a refillable water bottle, warm clothing, a helmet and a slider for the hill,



hockey sticks, pucks and helmets for the road hockey game, headlamps or flashlights for snowshoeing and skiing would be helpful as well.

### Food Orders Forms – March Order due on February 17, 2017

Just a reminder that food order forms go out in the first full week of each month and need to be back in by mid month so numbers can be tabulated and the milk and food providers notified. If you haven't received a food order form from your child by the Friday of the first week of the month, please put a note in his/her agenda and we will send another form home. **We enter Lent on March 1, 2017 so there won't be any hotdogs during March or April (until after Easter) to encourage students to refrain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent. Please be sure your child has a lunch on Fridays during March and up until Easter.**

### Knights of Columbus Free Throw Results

The Saint Mary's gym was buzzing with excitement during the annual Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw competition this past month. Students ages 9-14 shot 15 free throws with the following students capturing the top spots for our school in their respective age categories and will go on to represent Saint Mary's School at the council level at St. Dominic CSS on February 4, 2017. Congratulations to Caleb C., Piper L. and Holden V.

### Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations

In January we celebrated the Catholic Graduate Expectation of "A Reflective, Creative and Holistic Thinker". Thanks to Mrs. Shisko's Grade 4 class for the bulletin board display. In February we will be celebrating "A Collaborative Contributor".



### "Triple P" (Positive Parenting Program) at Saint Mary School

Saint Mary School is pleased to offer this wonderful parenting program on-site at the school at a time that is convenient to you.

Triple "P" gives parents simple tips to help manage the big and small problems of family life and helps you create a positive, caring relationship with your children and family. *Small changes can make big differences.*

Triple P is for every parent - whether you have a specific problem or are just looking for advice on common, everyday issues from toddler tantrums to teenage rebellion, Triple P provides easy to use tips and new ideas that will help you build confidence and skills. Triple P has the answers to common parenting questions and families say it works. Parents can talk with our public health nurse over the telephone, in person, individually or in a group. For more information, contact our public health nurse, Mrs. Kim Newberry at Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. 1-877-721-7520 Ext.7727 or you can email [Kim.Newberry@smdhu.org](mailto:Kim.Newberry@smdhu.org)



### St. Dominic CSS Parent Information Night & Grade 9 Registration

The parent information night that was scheduled for January had to be postponed until February 15 due to



inclement weather - you didn't miss it – you just need to add it to your calendar on a different day!

We are blessed to have Catholic education in Muskoka from Gr. JK-12. For those parents who have chosen the path of Catholic education from JK-8 at Saint Mary's school, it is now time to make this commitment to Catholic education as your child journeys through Gr. 9 – Gr. 12.

If you are still unsure as to whether your child will continue to be educated in our Catholic system, give St. Dominic CSS a call at 705-646-8772 x306

### Kindergarten Registration

At the other end of the spectrum...

Kindergarten registration has begun! If you know of a parent who has a child who will be kindergarten age in September 2017 (turns 4 before December 31, 2017) please pass this information on! Registrations completed at this time of the year impact staffing decisions for Saint Mary's in September.

### Junior/Intermediate Public Speaking and Primary Reading

Junior and Intermediate students are busy composing and rehearsing their public speaking speeches. Our school representatives will then be able to compete at the Lion's Club competition that follows our school activity. Also, our Primary level students will present a fun and inspiring collection of poetry recitals. Thank you to all students (and parents) for your hard work as our students continue to develop and polish their oral presentation skills. We will have a school presentation on



Friday February 24, 2017

### Pancake Tuesday February 28, 2017

#### A Call for Volunteers!

We are looking for parent volunteers to cook and serve pancakes at our annual pancake Tuesday lunch. If you have a couple of hours to spare and can flip a pancake, please call the school to let us know. We also need to borrow a few griddles to cook the pancakes on so if that is something you can help us out with, we would appreciate it! All students are asked to bring their own cutlery and plate as we won't be providing disposable items



### From Our Trustee

#### Mrs. Carol Corriveau-Truchon

My vision is that belonging should be at the heart of a fundamental discovery: that we all belong to a common humanity, the human race. We may be rooted in a specific family and culture but we come to this earth to open up to others, to serve them and receive the gifts they bring to us, as well as to all of humanity.

Jean Vanier, *Becoming Human*

Mid-January always brings the Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association's Professional Development session for trustees. For a day and a half, trustees from across the province come together to learn and celebrate the gift of Catholic education in Ontario. As part of our mass, we were blessed to hear the music that will accompany the theme and celebrations for Catholic Education Week, Walking Forward Together.

There were a wide range of presentations ranging from Religious Education Curriculum to Strategic Planning and a Regional Meeting with other Boards to discuss current

## February 2017 Newsletter

---

issues. The most moving presentation was from Brett Tookenay and Robert Horton from the Seven Generations Education Institute. They led us through an exercise where we had the opportunity to experience the effect of Canadian legislation and policies on the living conditions for our First Nation, Metis and Inuit communities. Elder Gerry Sault described how Indian corn is a mix of different kernels; yellow, white, black and speckled. He explained that if we are to survive together as peoples, we need to learn to grow together like Indian corn. It struck me that his message is very similar to that of Jean Vanier, as you can see in the quote referenced above.

At our January meeting, trustees supported the formation of a Truth and Reconciliation Committee where we can use what we have learned to work with staff on the creation of a plan for how SMCDSB can take steps towards reconciliation within our schools and communities. I am excited to be a part of this committee.

Snow days have wreaked havoc with the St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School Parent Information Night. If you have a child in Grades 7 or 8, I hope that you will be available on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to visit St. Dom's and learn about all the great opportunities that await your child when they go there!

God Bless,  
Carol Corriveau-Truchon

### **February Dates to Remember**

Thursday February 2 - Winter Activities Gr. 3-8

Friday February 3 -PA Day (no school)

Sunday February 5 – Family Mass @ St. Mary of the Assumption Church 11:00 am

Monday February 6 – CSCC Meeting @ 6:30 pm

Thursday February 9 – Winter Activities Gr. 3-8

Tuesday February 14 – School Mass @10:45 am

Wednesday February 15 – Rosary Apostolate

Wednesday February 15 – DOM Parent Information Night @6:00 pm (at St. Dominic CSS)

Thursday February 16 - Family Winter Fun Night

Monday February 20 - Family Day Holiday

Wednesday February 22 - Report Cards sent home

Friday February 24 - Public Speaking @ Saint Mary's

