

SAINT MARY SCHOOL

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Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

Prayer for a New Year

*God, thank you for a new year.
May everyone in our school community be willing to begin anew with a clean slate.
We know that you are always ready to forgive us.
Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.
As we begin 2017, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires.
Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what You want us to do.
Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with You now, one day at a time.
Amen*

Winter Activities – January 19, 26, February 2, 2017

A reminder that payment and all permission forms (with all sections completed) for Gr. 3-8 winter activities are due by **Friday January 13, 2017**. If payment by this time is a concern, please get in touch with Mrs. Vanclieaf so installment arrangements can be made.



Please ensure that your child dresses in layers for the outdoor activities and has the appropriate safety equipment on the activity days. Students who are taking part in skating at Arrowhead or downhill skiing or snowboarding at Hidden Valley must wear a helmet. Students will have full day activities on January 19, 26 and February 2. February 9 is our inclement weather date (let's hope we don't have to use it!) Information regarding activities for students in JK-2 will be coming home shortly.

Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations (OGCE) Class Ambassadors

In December we celebrated the OCGE of "An Effective Communicator" and the



following students were chosen to be their classroom ambassadors: Abby J., Piper L., Lacey H. Hayden B., Alayna H. Claire Q., Sophia F., Jaxon U. and Keylynn F. We are all very proud of you! Our OCGE for January is "A creative, reflective and holistic thinker". More information on the OCGE can be found at the Institute for Catholic Education <http://iceont.ca/resources/ontario-catholic-school-graduate-expectations/>

**Supporting Catholic Education in Muskoka JK-12
Grade 7 & 8 Information Night at St. Dominic CSS... bring a friend!**

An information night will be held on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2017 @ 6:00 pm** at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School. This is open to all Grade 7 and Grade 8 parents and students, including those who are attending public elementary schools - be sure to tell a friend who doesn't go to Saint Mary about this evening and bring them along with you! 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 your child is on his/her faith journey.



As a former St. Dominic parent, teacher and administrator, I can attest to the quality of education, care, interest and personal encouragement that our St. Dom's community provides to students.

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

Jersey Spirit Day – Friday January 20, 2017

Saint Mary's Leadership team has deemed Friday January 20 as "Jersey Day". Be sure to wear your favourite team jersey to show your loyalty! Classroom spirit points will be awarded based on the number of participating students so dig out those shirts!



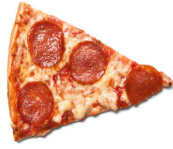
Kindergarten Registration 2017

Believe it or not, Kindergarten registrations for the 2017-2018 school year are underway! If you have a child who will be turning 4 years old in 2017 please let us know and we will send a kindergarten registration package home. Also, if you know of a parent who has a child who will be kindergarten age in September 2017 but does not currently have a student at Saint Mary's, please pass this information on. Registration information can be found here <http://smcdsb.on.ca/programs/kindergarten>



Food Orders Forms – February Order due on Tuesday January 17, 2017

This is a reminder that food order forms go out early each month and need to be returned by the due date printed on the form. All students are given a food order form to take home so if you haven't received it, by the Friday of the first week of the month, *put a note in his/her agenda and we will send another form home.* Your attention to the required time line is appreciated.



Inclement Weather Days/Winter Weather

We have already had two inclement weather days and will no doubt have more before spring rolls around! Please listen to the local radio station (105.5 FM, 88.7 FM, 99.5 FM) for bus cancellations, check our school website or www.mybustoschool.ca. Even if the buses aren't running, the school is open for student learning **after 8:20 a.m.** Do not come before 8:20, as there won't be staff to supervise your child. Parents must come into the school to sign your child(ren). If the inclement weather day is a pizza or hot dog day, 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 packed lunch. All students need to be picked up by 3:30 p.m. unless they are in the afterschool care program.



From Our Trustee...

"Even the littlest and weakest person has a gift for the community, and that gift must be honored. Each one of us is very different one from the other. But all together we are like a symphony, an orchestra; all together we make a beautiful bouquet of flowers. That means, however, that we must learn to live difference, to see it as a treasure and not as a threat."

Jean Vanier



Welcome back! I hope that all of you enjoyed time with those you love most over the Christmas Break. It is truly a "Winter Wonderland" outside now.

At the December meeting of the Board of Trustees, I was honoured to be elected Chair of the Board. This means that in addition to my responsibilities as a Trustee, I will preside over the Board Meetings, act as spokesperson for the Board of Trustees and represent the Board at public functions. I will still look forward to attending school functions, like masses, fundraisers and Catholic School and Community Council Meetings so that I have the chance to interact with the students and families that I have been blessed to meet over the years. As Chair, I will also attend functions in communities outside of Muskoka and Parry Sound.

I hope to see many of you at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School on Thursday January 12th for the Parent Information Night. As a parent I can tell you that my children thrived at 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. Come and learn about what St. Dom's can offer your children!

God Bless,
Carol Corriveau-Truchon

Kelsey's Cash For Schools Programme

Just a reminder that the Kelsey's Restaurant in Huntsville will give Saint Mary's school 5% of all sales made to Saint Mary's School staff, students, families and friends who sign the back of the bill with "Saint Mary's School" and put it in the drop box at the front doors when you leave.



January Dates to Remember

- Jan 12 Gr. 4-8 Knights of Columbus SMH Free Throw 12:40 pm
- Jan 12 Gr. 7&8 Information night @ St. Dominic CSS 6:00 pm
- Jan 13 All forms and payment due for Gr. 3-8 Winter Electives
- Jan 18 Rosary Apostolate
- Jan 19 Winter Electives Gr. 3-8
- Jan 20 Jersey Day
- Jan 24 School Mass @ Saint Mary School 10:45 am
- Jan 26 Winter Electives Gr. 3-8
- Jan 26 Knights of Columbus Free Throw (all Huntsville school students who qualified)@4:00pm

