

SAINT MARY SCHOOL

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Prayer for a New Year

O God of this New Year that stretches before me, teach me the secrets of wisdom.
O God of this New Year that beckons to me, "create a clean heart in me, put into me a new and constant spirit."

O God of this New Year that holds out hope to me, be my savior again, renew my joy, keep my spirit steady and willing". O God of this New Year that gives me another chance, "in your great tenderness wipe away my faults". Instill some joy and gladness into me.

Loving God, it is time to turn again to you. Come to meet me, God of life, reach into the mystery of myself. Take me into the heart of this year and give me the confidence to journey freely, lovingly, with risk, wonder and laughter.

~Amen

Winter Activities – January 18, 25, February 1, 2018

A reminder that payment and all permission forms (with all sections completed) for Gr. 4-8 winter activities are due by Friday January 12, 2018. If payment by this time is a concern, please get in touch with Mrs. Heeneman 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 18, 25 and February 1. February 8 is our inclement weather date (let's hope we don't have to use it!) Information regarding activities for students in JK-3 will be coming home shortly.

January Mass @ Saint Mary's School

Father Sercely will be at Saint Mary's School to celebrate mass with our school community on January 9 @ 10:45 a.m. All are welcome to join us ... we would love to have more parents, guardians and grandparents attend our school masses.

P.A. Day Reminder

Please note that Friday February 2 is a scheduled P.A. Day for Saint Mary's. There are no scheduled classes that day.

Kindergarten Registration 2018

Believe it or not, Kindergarten registrations for the 2018-2019 school year are underway! If you have a child who will be turning 4 years old in 2018, 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 2018 but does not currently have a student at Saint Mary's, please let them know that we would be pleased to assist them in the office.



Inclement Weather...



Blizzards, freezing rain, -40 temperatures...ah, winter in Muskoka! 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 (Monday, 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.

News from the Leadership Team!

Hot Chocolate Day!

We will be selling hot chocolate for \$.50 on January 19 during the lunch hour. Our proceeds will go to a local charity (e.g., Salvation Army or Table Food Bank).

Blast from the Past!

We are having a Blast from the Past spirit day on January 26.

End of Day Pick Ups



Students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m. so please do not come into the school to pick them up before this time as it creates unnecessary interruptions in the main office during a very busy time of the day and in your child's class. Students miss out on end of day routines such as prayers, agenda items, tidying up their area, etc.

Please write a note in your child's agenda and your child will meet you in the pick up area at 3:15 pm. You do not need to come into the office to sign him/her out at this time as the bus duty supervisor takes care of this. If your child does not have a note to indicate that he/she is being picked up and you are not here when your child's bus comes, he/she will be sent home on the bus. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

From Our Trustee...

Today we want to keep dreaming. We celebrate all the opportunities which enable you, and us adults too, not to lose the hope of a better world with greater possibilities ... I know that one of the dreams of your parents and teachers, and all those who help them ... is that you can grow up and be happy.

Pope Francis addressing students in a Catholic School in New York during the 2015 Papal Visit to the US



Welcome back! I hope that all of you enjoyed time with those you love most over the Christmas Break, and that you managed to stay warm despite the cold temperatures.

At the December meeting of the Board of Trustees, I was honoured to be acclaimed as Chair of the Board for the second year. 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.

Last year we created some additional ad hoc committees, and I look forward to continuing the good work being done there. The Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action is one of those committees where we will continue to develop programming priorities to ensure that all students learn about the history of indigenous peoples in Canada and the value of that very rich culture for all of us. We also created a committee to ensure that the exemplary staff and students in our Board are recognized each spring at the Celebration of Excellence event.

I am hoping to visit Catholic School and Community Council meetings this winter and look forward to meeting parents there and at special events throughout the rest of the year.

God Bless,
Carol Corriveau-Truchon

Peanut Butter Alternatives

Just a reminder that we do not allow products such as "Wow Butter", "No Nuts" "Sun Butter", and other soy or non-peanut based peanut butter substitutes. While these products may be peanut free, it is difficult for us to determine if each sandwich is made with one of these products or if it is peanut butter – even if there is a sticker on the sandwich. While we recognize and appreciate the challenges that parents face putting together lunches that a child will eat, we are asking that you do not send sandwiches with these types of products.



Science North Family Science Night –Tentative Date – February 6, 2018!

We are very excited to be hosting a Science North Science Night. It has been tentatively scheduled for February 6, 2018 from 5:30 - 7:30. Our CSCC is planning a fun evening and we hope that you will mark this tentative date on your calendars. More details will be sent home closer to the event.



Dress for the Weather

Saint Mary School staff are concerned that students in all grades are not dressing appropriately for the weather. In the winter, each student should have a winter jacket, warm hat or hood, snow pants, waterproof mittens, and waterproof boots. It might be a good idea to dig these things out now to try on before the serious snow begins to fly! As the weather in general becomes more unpredictable, please ensure your child has an extra set of mittens and socks in their backpack – there is nothing worse than wet feet and cold hands on a winter day! If you need assistance to attain these items, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is available to help by calling 705-789-0008



Dates to Remember...

- Jan 8 Welcome Back!
- Jan 9 Mass @ 10:45 am in gym
- Jan 11 Knights of Columbus Free Throw in afternoon
- Jan 12 Payment & Forms due for Gr 4 – 8 winter electives
- Jan 15 CSCC Meeting @ 6:30 pm in library
- Jan 17 Rosary Team to Saint Mary's
- Jan 18 Gr. 4 – 8 Winter Electives
- Jan 19 Leadership: Hot Chocolate at Lunch (\$0.50)
- Jan 22 Confirmation Classes begin at church hall
- Jan 25 Gr. 4 – 8 Winter Electives
- Jan 26 Leadership Spirit Day: Blast from the Past!
- Jan 29 Confirmation Classes at church hall
- Feb 1 Gr. 4 – 8 Winter Electives
- Feb 2 P.A. Day (no classes for students)

