

Saint Mary School March 2017 Newsletter

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SAINT MARY SCHOOL

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A Lenten Reflection

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of all life.

Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from worry; feast on trust.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.

Fast from hostility; feast on nonviolence.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal Truth.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.

Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.

Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.

Gentle God, during this season of fasting and feasting, gift us with your presence, so we can be a gift to others in carrying out your work. Amen.

— William Arthur Ward

A HUGE "Thank you" to all of our parents, grandparents and church members who were able to assist with our annual pancake lunch for the students. I am so appreciative of the amazing group of people who support Saint Mary School in so many ways!! C. V.



Saint Mary School's March Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectation

Saint Mary School's March Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectation is "A Caring Family Member". During Lent we are all encouraged to think about how we can bring joy and peace to others, whether through word, thought or deed. Our family is made up of not only our relatives, but also encompasses the greater family of God within our school, at work, at church or in our global family. As we journey together towards the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ, reflect on the words of Pope Francis:

"A healthy family life makes frequent use of three phrases: "May I?" "Thank you", and "I'm sorry". Never, never, never end the day without making peace."



Family Mass Sunday March 5, 2017

@11:00

The first Sunday of each month is Family Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Church.

The next Family Mass is this weekend - March 5 @ 11:00 a.m. We are in need of students to be readers, ushers, to gather the collection and take the gifts up to the altar. Please let Mrs. Webster or Mrs. Baumgart know if your child is available to take part. All families are welcome and encouraged to participate!

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Forty Items in Forty Days

A reminder that Saint Mary School's Lenten Food Drive begins on March 1 and will continue until Holy Thursday on April 13. The Knights of Columbus will make a financial donation to the St. Vincent de Paul if together, the school and church can donate 1000 pounds of food during Lent. Please check your cupboards for items and think of those for whom the cupboard is bare. Thank you once again to Mrs. Webster and her Gr. 3 /4 class for spearheading this very important activity. Please see the flyer for suggested items.



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Saint Mary School Leadership News **Hot Chocolate Friday March 3 – 75¢**

The leadership group will be selling hot chocolate on Friday March 3 during the lunch hour. The money will go towards leadership activities such as the winter fun day they are planning for later in the month.



Twin Spirit Day – Friday March 10

Saint Mary School's Leadership team has deemed Friday March 10 as "Twin Day". Students can twin with a sibling, a friend or maybe even a staff member! Classroom spirit points will be awarded based on the number of participating students.



No Hot Dogs During Lent

"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty" Pope Francis

A reminder that we do not serve hot dogs on Fridays during Lent so your child will need a lunch on Fridays. Some families take the money they would have spent on these lunches and donate it to a charity of their choice. Refraining from eating meat on Friday and donating the money is part of our "fasting and almsgiving"

March Break Fun

Huntsville Public Library has many special events for children to take part in during the March Break (March 13-17). You can visit their website for more details... <http://www.huntsvillelibrary.ca>



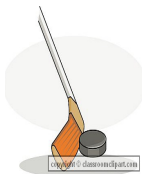
SMCDSB Math Olympics

On Thursday March 9, 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 21. We wish them well as they work on individual and group math problems in this exciting competition and we thank Mrs. Baumgart for coaching and taking the students to these events!



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 to Monsieur Gravel for attending with the students.

Parents in the Front Foyer Only Please

While we encourage parents to come into the school to meet with staff, we do request that you make an appointment. Parents should never venture down the hallway to their child's classroom or cubby area unannounced. In general, parents are *not* permitted in the hallways past the front foyer without the permission of staff. If you have an orange visitor's sticker, this is an indicator that you have visited the office and have permission to go down to the classroom areas. If you need to pick something up for your child, or feel your child needs assistance getting to his/her class, let the office know and either Mrs. Hetherington or Mrs. Vancleave will assist.



End of the Day Pick-Up Procedures Need to Be Followed By Everyone...

Parents who come to pick up their child at the end of the day are to meet their child in the pick-up area. All students who are being picked up come out together at 3:20 when the early buses have pulled out. The expectation is that parents **meet their child(ren)** in the designated area, not remove them from the line as they exit the school or encourage them to run across the bus lane to a car waiting in the parking lot! We need to ensure that all students are safely accounted for. *Thank you to all of those who follow the established procedures.*



Royal Canadian Legion Contests... Poster, Essay, Public Speaking

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Royal Canadian Legion Poster, Essay and Speech contests. Saint Mary School always has an amazing showing with many of our students placing in the top three for their categories. Way to go Saint Mary School!



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Kindergarten Registration 2017

If you have a child who will be turning 4 years old in 2017 please let us know and we will send a kindergarten package home. Also, if you know of a parent who has a child who will be kindergarten age in September 2017, please pass this information on. Families must be Catholic in order to attend Saint Mary School (ie one parent must be baptized Catholic if the child hasn't yet been baptized.) Registrations done at this time of the year impact staffing decisions for Saint Mary School in September.



St. Dominic CSS Grade 9 Registration

St. Dominic CSS registration packages are available at Saint Mary School. If you were not able to attend the Gr. 9 information night last month or if you know of students who attend a public elementary school who are interested in learning more about St. Dominic CSS, you can call St. Dominic CSS at 705-646-8772 x306 or pick up a package at Saint Mary School.

From Our Trustee

Mrs. Carol Corriveau-Truchon

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

I know I have said this before, but one of my favourite parts of being a Trustee is having the opportunity to meet the students, staff and families who are a part of Simcoe Muskoka Catholic schools. There are so many examples of people who are spreading love and light and I

am thrilled that as a Board, we are "Celebrating God's Family" this year.

This past week, I talked with students, staff and families who are interested in improving the mental wellness in their community at St. Peter's, then I saw how the social justice club at MMO organized students to record their thoughts on bullying on pink shirts that were decorating the school. I got to watch students at Saint Mary's sit quietly and support their classmates who were chosen to make speeches in the gym, and then I got to enjoy a fabulous spaghetti dinner at a fundraiser at St. Dom's in support of a local nonprofit, charitable organization. There is certainly much to celebrate in our SMCD SB family this week!

Speeches at Saint Mary's began with two Grade 8 girls who got up to speak together about the similarities and differences between life in Ontario and life in Syria. One of those students just arrived in Huntsville from Syria this past summer. They talked about differences in language, time zones, food and school. But in spite of those differences, they are 13-year olds who love their families, shopping, books and social media. WOW! I wish we could broadcast their speech far and wide; it was a true example of how our schools are safe places where each member of God's family is accepted, welcomed and celebrated.

Thank you to all who share their gifts every day!
God Bless!

Carol Corriveau-Truchon

March Dates to Remember

March 1	Ash Wednesday Mass @10:45
March 1	Gr. 7&8 Immunizations
March 1	Lenten Food Drive begins
March 3	Leadership Hot Chocolate Fundraiser (75¢ per cup)
March 3	Free Style X-Country Ski Races at Arrowhead
March 6 & 20	Dance Program for primary students at SMH
March 6	CSCC Meeting @ 6:30 in library

March 8	Gr. 1 & 2 to Ontario Pioneer Camp
March 9	Intermediate Math Olympics
March 10	Twin Day
March 12	Daylight Savings begins
March 13 - 17	March Break Holiday
March 21	Junior Math Olympics
March 22	Rosary Apostolate
March 24	Winter Fun Day for students @ Saint Mary
March 30	Hockey Tournament @ SPE