

NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Follow us on Twitter (@smh_smcdsb) and like us on Facebook (@stmaryshuntsville)

SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

36 Silverwood Drive
Huntsville, ON P1H 1N1
705-789-6481

<http://smh.schools.smcdsb.on.ca>

Prayer for November

November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls. For all of our loved ones who have returned to our heavenly Father, may we keep them in our hearts and our prayers.

*I pray for all my friends and loved ones who are no longer here on this journey of faith.
When I am sad at the death of those who were close to me,
may my sadness be firmly supported by my faith,
that life is merely changed not ended,
that those I love are still with me though unseen.
May You, Lord Jesus Christ,
Welcome me and all those for whom I pray,
Into eternal life at the moment pleasing to You. Amen*



Remembrance Day 2016



Poppies are available in the front office for students and visitors to purchase by donation and are encouraged to do so.

On November 4 a member of the Huntsville Royal Canadian Legion will visit the students for an assembly and on Friday November 11, some of the older classes from Saint Mary's School will attend the ceremony at the Cenotaph at the Huntsville Legion. Students will stand together with veterans, members of the Royal Canadian Legion, cadets and other dignitaries and pause to reflect and recognize the importance of remembering those who put the safety and security of others before their own concerns. All parents are invited to join us.

There's a Monster In My Closet!



On Wednesday November 2, the gym of Saint Mary's School will be transformed into a big pajama party as we snuggle down to watch our school musical "There's a Monster In My Closet". The students have been going through their paces, singing and dancing since last year so be sure to join us at 6:00 pm. Tickets are available at the door for \$5 and include popcorn and a drink. Don't forget to wear your PJs and bring your blanket!

Family Literacy Night - November 15, 2016



We are very excited to be hosting a Family Literacy Night on Tuesday November 15, 2016 from 6:00pm - 7:30pm and look forward to seeing you here join in the fun! We are ask that you bring any books you would like to leave for an exchange to be held that same night at the school. Also, to both parents and students, please come

dressed up as your favourite book character! This event is made possible through a "Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant so there is no cost for this event but there will be prizes and snacks!

Reporting to Parents – November 17 & 18, 2016



Progress reports will be sent home on Wednesday November 16 and three-way parent-teacher-student conferences will be scheduled for November 17 from 4:15 pm – 8:15 pm and on Friday November 18 from 8:30am - 3:30 pm. Please complete the conference form (**attached**) and return it to the school by **Friday November 11** so we can set up schedules and notify you of your appointments. Specific interview times will be sent home with your child's progress report.

Chocolate Fundraiser



A huge "Thank you" to our Saint Mary's School Community for supporting our chocolate fundraiser. Staff and students sold almost \$10000 worth of chocolate! Of this, we get approximately 50% back in profit - way to go Saint Mary's!

Dress for the Weather



The recent snow storm last week caught quite a few of us off guard but this is gentle reminder that this is the time of year that all students need to dress appropriately for the weather. It might be a good idea to dig the winter 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

NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Follow us on Twitter (@smh_smcdsb) and like us on Facebook (@stmaryshuntsville)

assistance to attain these items, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is available to help by calling 705-789-0008.

Inclement Weather Days/Winter Weather



We generally have several inclement weather days in any given year (one year we had three in a row in November...). 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.** Please do not come before 8:20, as there may not be staff here yet to supervise your child. Parents are expected to come into the school to sign your child(ren) in. 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.

Grade 7 & 8 Visit to St. Dominic CSS



Right on the heels of a fantastic (albeit a bit snowy!) camping experience at Muskoka Woods with students from Mons. Michael O'Leary, St. Peter the Apostle, and St. Dominic CSS, our Grade 7 & 8 students will be test driving being a Gr. 9 student at St. Dominic CSS on Wednesday November 2, 2016. Students will meet up with their new friends and will be given a timetable, eat in the Dragon's Den cafeteria and with the assistance of Peer Support Workers, will follow a day in the life of a St. Dominic Gr. 9 student. This is the first visit of the 2016-2017 school year to our secondary school as we continue to support Saint Mary's students on their faith journey through Catholic Education from JK-12. This day is open to *all* Gr. 7 & 8 students in Muskoka Parry Sound so if you know of a child who attends a public elementary school but who is interested in finding out about Catholic secondary education, please let them know about it. For more information about St. Dominic CSS, you can check out their website, which you can access from a link on our Saint Mary's website or go to <http://dom.schools.smcdsb.on.ca>

Peanut and Tree Nut Allergy Reminder



A second reminder.... Saint Mary School is a **PEANUT and TREE NUT Free school**. Staff and students with life threatening allergy to peanuts and tree nuts are members of our school community. Please be diligent in ensuring that your child's lunch and snacks are peanut and tree nut free. Please note that **peanut butter alternatives such as Wow,**

Sunbutter, etc. are not permitted either... it is difficult to monitor a product that looks and smells like peanut butter when supervising a class of students and we do not want to put undue worry on those who have this life threatening condition.

Saint Mary's School Community Family Tree



As many of you know, we have a St. Mary's School Community Family Tree in our hallway outside of the library. Now that we have updated pictures for all of our students, it's time to get updated pictures from all of our families! Please send in a recent photo of your family so we can add it to the individual picture of your child. Be sure to check the tree out when you are in for interviews in November.

Gr.7&8 Immunization Program



The Ontario Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires the health unit to have up to date immunization records for all students attending school. According to ISPA (2014) students are now required to be vaccinated against the following diseases:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Pertussis
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (must have two doses after their first birthday)
- Meningococcal Disease (must have one dose after the first birthday & Men-C-ACYW in Grade 7)
- Varicella (chicken pox) ** only for those born after 2010

The health unit does NOT receive immunization information directly from the doctor's office. Parents need to contact the health unit each time students receive a vaccine from their health care provider.

What you can do:

- Check your child's yellow immunization card
- Contact your child's health care provider to obtain records or to get missing vaccinations
- Share – Go to <https://www.simcoemuskohealth.org/healthunit/contact/ChildImmunization.aspx> to enter the complete record or fax a completed record to 705-726-3962

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

NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Follow us on Twitter (@smh_smcdsb) and like us on Facebook (@stmaryshuntsville)

desperately needing assistance it would make us very happy to know that you provided support to others.

Grad Book of Memories for 2016-2017



The Gr. 8 students have started working on their 2016-2017 book of grad memories, which is a departure from the usual full school yearbook. Given the *incredible* amount of time and energy a full school yearbook takes, as well as rising costs of printing, we are planning to alternate between a much more manageable Gr. 8 book of memories one year and a full school yearbook the next year.

New Daycare @ Saint Mary's School!



The Ministry of Education recently announced funding for new childcare spaces at Saint Mary School! Our school will benefit from \$1.1 million in new construction, resulting in 39 new childcare spaces. Very exciting news indeed - stay tuned for more information as it becomes available!

From Our Trustee Mrs. C. Corriveau-Truchon...



Chanie haunts me. His story is Canada's story. This is about Canada. We are not the country we thought we were. History will be re-written. We are all accountable, but this begins in the late 1800s and goes to 1996. "White" Canada knew – on somebody's purpose – nothing about this. We weren't taught it; it was hardly ever mentioned.
Gord Downie, The Secret Path

On October 19th 500 students from across SMCD SB joined 20,000 others at WE Day in Toronto. That evening my family was blessed to be one of the 400 staff and their families who took part in the first WE Day Family event.

We were treated to musical performances from the Bare Naked Ladies and Hedley, along with presentations from really inspiring people who have made a difference in this world. Rick Hansen, the Man in Motion, who traveled the country in his wheelchair to raise funds for spinal cord research, talked to us about the importance of ensuring that our schools, events and programs are accessible to everyone.

Chris Hadfield told us that a town in Canada looks the same as a town in Afghanistan when you are looking at Earth from the International Space Station. He encouraged us to find the similarities with people from other cultures, rather than focusing on the differences.

Joe Roberts is a former homeless youth who is pushing a shopping cart across Canada to raise awareness about youth homelessness. He spoke very eloquently about the importance of having a caring adult to believe in you and what a difference that made in his life.

For me, the most powerful performance came from Gord Downie who is telling the story of Chanie Wenjack through an animated film, graphic novel and a solo album called "The Secret Path". Downie performed a song and then was joined onstage by Chanie's sister, Pearl, and her son, to tell a little more of the story of a 12-year-old boy who died after trying to escape from a residential school and walk 600 km back home. The residential school tragedy is a black mark in our Canadian history and Downie encouraged all of us to educate ourselves about it and then do what we can to be a part of the solution. CBC aired The Secret Path and it is available for download; Downie asked that each of us watch the video with our families and start a conversation about truth and reconciliation. It is through education that we will find the way.

God Bless,
Carol Corriveau-Truchon

November Dates to Remember

November 2	"There's A Monster In My Closet" school musical
November 2	Be a Gr. 9 for a Day... Gr. 7 & 8 students to DOM
November 3	CSCC Commissioning @ Joan of Arc School
November 8	CSCC Meeting @ 6:30 pm
November 11	Interview Request Form due back to school
November 11	Remembrance Day @ Royal Canadian Legion Centoph 11:00 am
November 14	School Mass @ 10:45 (in the gym)
November 15	Family Literacy Night
November 16	Progress Reports Sent Home
November 16	Rosary Apostolate
November 17	Parent-Teacher-Student Scheduled Conferences 4:15 pm – 8:15 pm
November 18	PA Day – Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences
November 27	First Sunday of Advent
November 30	Gr. 7 Hep B (Gr. 7) and HPV (Gr. 8 girls)