

## St. Mary's School

340 Leacock Drive, Barrie, Ontario

Phone: 705-726-1843 Fax: 705-726-2082

Principal ~ Mr. P. Shannon Secretary ~ Mrs. K. Byles



### SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

8:43 am	Warning bell
8:45 am	Entry bell
8:50 am	Classes begin
10:50-11:30 am	1st nutritional break (20 minutes to eat, 20 minutes outside recess)
1:10-1:50 pm	2nd nutritional break (20 minutes to eat, 20 minutes outside recess)
3:10 pm	Dismissal

**Safe Arrival Program:** We recognize the need for the school to maintain safe arrival and dismissal practices. The effectiveness of our Safe Arrival Program is dependent upon your cooperation in keeping the school informed of absences and lateness. **PLEASE CALL 726-1843 IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT OR LATE.** If you are calling the school during non-school hours, please leave a message on the answering machine. Changes in writing must be submitted to the office first thing in the morning. For appointments, etc., during the school day, we ask that parents come to the front office to sign your child in or out. Students will not be called from their class unless a written note specifies the appointment time or the parent/guardian comes to the school office. **Please do not phone the school requesting changes to your child's schedule.** It is not safe procedures for us to change your plans over the phone. In an emergency, students will be kept safe at the school until the parent's arrival. If parents are unexpectedly delayed after school dismissal, students will return to the school office to wait in a safe location. Punctuality is of the utmost importance. Please try your best to arrive on time as this avoids a great deal of anxiety for many. **If your child arrives after 8:45 a.m., they are required to obtain a late slip at the office.**

**Fees for St. Mary's Students:** This year, all students from grades one to eight will receive a new math workbook to complement the math textbook. In addition to this workbook, students in grade 2 to 8 will receive a literacy workbook. These books are essential to assist with our literacy and numeracy initiatives. Student agendas will also be distributed to students from grades one to eight. These agendas are used to help students learn valuable life skills of literacy and organization while at the same time, parents and teachers can communicate to each other. Please help encourage your child to use these books on a daily basis in order to improve their academic success. To help defray the cost of these items, we are asking each student to bring in \$10.00 (\$5.00 for grade one students). We thank you for your continued support of our programs.

**Meet the Teacher/Open House:** On Thursday, September 24, 'Meet the Teacher/Open House' will take place from 5-6:30 pm. This is an opportunity to informally meet your child's teacher and to see the class room. During the evening, please sign up for parent-teacher-student conferences occurring on Thursday, November 26 from 3:30-6:30 pm and Friday, November 27 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. A variety of information will be available in the gymnasium to assist you with current activities that take place at St. Mary's. Families will be able to purchase pizza and a drink (more info to follow).

**Medication Policy:** Certain students require the administration of oral medication on a regular basis. The school will adhere strictly to the Simcoe Muskoka C.D.S.B. Policy in this regard. If you wish to have oral medication administered to your child by the school, please notify the office. You will be sent a Parent's Consent and Instruction Sheet to be completed and returned to the school. **We cannot administer medication without written parental authorization and completion of this form. A new form must be filled out each year.** *Students are not allowed to carry any medication with them. If your child has a severe allergy (e.g. bees, peanuts), please contact the office immediately to initiate an emergency medical plan for your child.*

**Peanut Free School Community:** St. Mary's continues to be a 'peanut free' community. Please refrain from using nut products. It is important to realize that for a sensitive person, this is a lifelong allergy and that even trace amounts can kill. We appreciate that you will continue to ensure that all food items coming into our community are peanut free.

**Picture Days:** Friday, October 2 for grades 1-8 and B Day kindergarten students and Friday, October 9 for the A Day kindergarten students. Pictures will occur during the morning of each day.



**Dress Code:** The St. Mary's School Dress Code has been developed in consultation with parents, staff and administration. The Code supports a safe and respectful learning and teaching environment. The principles of respect and safety have been guides in the development of the dress code and will be used in its implementation. Students must dress modestly. Clothing must cover the upper back, upper chest, and the area between the neck and shoulder. Clothing is to be neither revealing nor distracting to others.

**Please read the agenda for further details.**

Students, staff, parents, guardians, volunteers and visitors must dress respectfully at school and at school-sponsored activities. The following are **NOT PERMITTED**:

- Hats, hoods, bandanas and sunglasses within the school
- Halter tops, tube tops, see-through mesh shirts, short shorts / skirts, inappropriate tank tops exposed undergarments and bare midriffs, pyjama type clothing is not acceptable
- Body piercing (ears excluded); dog collars / studded bracelets; pocket chains, visible tattoos.
- Skirts / dresses shorter than extended arm and hand length.
- Shoulder straps must be a minimum of three fingers wide - no spaghetti straps etc.
- Clothing that does not fit properly eg. pants falling to show underwear; low cut blouses etc. are not permitted.

**Any inappropriate clothing is to be corrected immediately. Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be brought to the office. A phone call home to parents requesting proper clothing will be made. Repeat offenses may result in suspension.** Exceptions to the code may be made by the Principal where the change is deemed appropriate or necessary.

**Catholic School Community Council:** Our first meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 29, in the library at 6:30 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend. We look forward to an exciting and prosperous year! We are currently looking for parents to join our Community Council or join a sub committee. Many of the initiatives from last year are in place and will continue this year. Sub committees perform various roles which include special lunches, fundraisers, etc. Nomination forms are available at the office, at the first meeting or during the 'Meet the Teacher/Open House' on Thursday, September 24.

**Visitors to our school community:** Reflective of Safe Schools Legislation, it is critical that all visitors sign in and out of the main office in our School Visitor Sign-In Book. Visitors are assumed to be people who have prearranged meetings with staff or need to consult at the office. In order to ensure the safety of each child in St. Mary's, we are responsible to track all visitors to our school community regardless of the purpose of their visit. Visitor and volunteer tags are available from the front office when you sign in. If you would like to speak with a teacher or visit in a classroom, please speak with the Principal ahead of time. We would be happy to arrange this. **The safety of our students is paramount. It is critical we know who is in our school at all times!**

**Breakfast Club/Snack Club:** St. Mary's offers a nutritional breakfast every morning starting at 8:10. Snacks are also provided during the morning nutrition break. Students must arrive before 8:30 to participate. The breakfast club is in great need of parent volunteers. If you can spare one hour per week, please contact Yvonne Seed at 726-9888. Donations (non-perishable food items or gift certificates) are always welcome.



**Outdoor/Indoor Shoes:** Two pairs of shoes are required for your child - an outdoor pair for wearing to and from school, recess and outdoor activities, and an indoor pair for wearing in class and in the gymnasium.

**Telephone Use:** It is school policy that students will not use the phone in the main office. If there is an emergency situation, the school secretary will contact the parent from the school. Cell phones are not to be used during the school day. If there is an emergency, it is critical that the office is aware of it. If a student is found using a cell phone, it will be confiscated and kept at the office until a parent can come and retrieve it.



**Food Program:** We will continue with our lunch program which will begin on Monday, September 14. Mondays and Tuesdays, soup and/or kraft dinner will be available, pizza on Wednesdays, subs on Thursdays and hotdogs on Fridays. Each food item requires one coupon which is worth \$1.25. We prefer that you purchase coupons for your child's use which can be obtained from your child's teacher. Food orders will be taken on Mondays and Tuesdays **ONLY** each week. **LATE ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER TUESDAY MORNING.** Orders cannot be taken over the phone and refunds are not available if your child misses lunch due to illness appointments, etc. White and chocolate milk will be available every day for sale (0.75/carton) beginning on Tuesday September 8. If students are interested in purchasing milk, they may do so each day at the entrance of room 137. Any profits raised through these fund raising events assist the school with various expenses throughout the year, such as guest speakers, tournament fees, presentations, student assistance, etc. We thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

**World School Milk Day:** On the last Wednesday of every September, schools around the globe celebrate the importance of drinking milk daily. No other drink comes close to providing the 16 essential nutrients found in white and chocolate milk. This annual event is celebrated in over 40 countries around the world. **This year's WSMB will occur on Wednesday, September 30, 2009. and on this day, students will receive one complimentary serving of milk!**



**Pupils and Illness:** School policy states that any child who is well enough to attend school is well enough to go outside for recess. At the same time, if your child is ill, please keep them at home until they have fully recovered to reduce the possibility of spreading unwanted germs to other students.



**Bicycles/Roller Blades/Skateboards/Scooters/Heelies:** All students who ride their bikes to school must wear a helmet as mandated by law. Bicycles must be walked through the school yard and all students must use bicycle locks when leaving their bikes on school property. Roller blades, skateboards, scooters and heelies are not to be used on school property. The school is not responsible for theft.

**Personal Electronic/Play Equipment:** Students are asked **NOT** to bring valued personal property to school (eg. Nintendo games, Game Boys, Beanie Babies, video cameras, Ipods, camera phones, digital cameras, trading cards etc.) Cell phones, Cd players, MP3s, Walkie Talkies / laser or electric shock pens are **NOT** permitted for student use on school grounds. Students are asked not to 'trade' cards or toys while on school property. **The school will not bear any responsibility for lost or damaged items.**

**Student Safety:** We ask that parents **DO NOT** park temporarily in front of the school entrance. If you are dropping off or picking your child up from school, please park in the school parking lot located at the side of the school. The front entrance is an emergency lane and **MUST** be kept clear at **ALL TIMES**. Also, children **SHOULD NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL before 8:30 a.m.** unless they are attending the Breakfast Club which begins at 8:10 a.m. If you must excuse your child from school during the day and a written note has not been sent in, please sign your child out at the school office. Your child will be contacted when you have arrived at the school. **(Please do not call ahead to have your child waiting at the office).**

**Magazine Orders:** The QSP Magazine Program will be returning this FALL, so please save your magazine orders (new or renewals) and order them through our school program. Our school earns profits through magazines people already purchase. Prices are up to 85% off of news-stand prices and promoting this program will encourage children to read and a parent who reads is a great role model? You can order early by shopping online at [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca)! QSP Customer Service - 1-800-667-2536.

**No Child Without:** Our school is involved in the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation's *No Child Without* program. There is no cost for students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday to join MedicAlert through this program. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis, then you should consider this program. A child's MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca). To register your child you will need a *No Child Without* brochure from the office. If your child is already part of the *No Child Without* program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-800-668-1507 to update your child's file.

**Grocery Tapes/Campbell Labels - Keep Them Coming!** Please continue to send in your **Zehrs tapes!** \$450 worth of Zehrs or Zehrs Food Plus tapes equals \$1.00 (Canadian). With the collection of \$10,000.00 in cash receipts St. Mary's School will receive a cheque! **Labels for Education** has been awarding free educational equipment to schools in exchange for proofs of purchase from the Campbell family of brands. It's a fun, easy program where students, families and members of the community work together for a common goal. Please continue to support this resourceful program and send your labels to the school! **Canadian Tire money always welcome too!!**



**Your Child's Immunization Record!** The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required by law to keep complete immunization records on every school aged child in Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. Unfortunately the health unit does not receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices; it is the parent's responsibility to give all immunization information to the health unit. If your child's immunization record is not complete, you may receive a notice from the health unit requesting dates for immunization or proof of a valid exemption. You will also be advised that your child may be suspended from school if the health unit does not receive this information. Please check to make sure that your child's immunization information is up-to-date and that the health unit has record of it. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Your Health Connection at (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8807.

**Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine for Grade 8 Female Students:** The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer the HPV vaccine at no cost to all female students in Grade 8. The HPV vaccine is given in three doses at school clinics.



**Immunizations for Grade 7 Students:** The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit will offer the hepatitis B vaccine and the meningococcal C (Men-C) vaccine at no cost to children in grade 7 or born in 1995 at school clinics. The hepatitis B vaccine is given in two doses. One consent form that is valid for both doses of hepatitis B vaccine and the Men-C vaccine will be sent home in September or October. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Your Health Connection at (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8807.

**Immunization Dates are as follows:**

October 13 in the pm,	Hep B#1 for the grade 7 students,	HPV#1 for the grade 8 girls.
January 4 in the pm,	Men C for the grade 7 students,	HPV#2 for the grade 8 girls.
April 27 in the pm,	Hep B#2 for the grade 7 students,	HPV#3 for the grade 8 girls.

**Lost & Found:** New location - coat racks outside of room 137.

**Label Clothing:** Please put your child's name on all personal items.

**Lunch Supervisors:** If you are interested in supervising students during our nutritional breaks, please contact the school at 726-1843. This position offers \$13.00/hour.