

# SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL



## APRIL NEWSLETTER

Nurturing faith, illuminating minds, inspiring hearts, and empowering hands - we are working together to transform our world.

April 2016

### Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that Easter has come and gone! Time is flying by...twelve weeks until the St. Mary's Class of 2016 will graduate...and twelve weeks until the end of this awesome school year! We have a busy schedule ahead of us! April is already upon us and there are many note worthy events coming up. First, our Money Mentor Workshop for parents on Wednesday, April 13 from 6:30-8:00. Secondly, our spring fundraiser which is a clothing and electronics recycling drive on Saturday, April 23 from 8:00-12:00. Please look for details coming home. Lastly, all families please join us on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> at WENDY'S for dinner 4:30-7:30. On April 22 & 23 the students will continue their roles as stewards of the earth by participating in "Pitch in and Clean Day" and observing "Earth Day" as an opportunity to care for our earth - God's gift to us. We are hosting a Spring into Clean the school yard day as well on Saturday April 23. Hope to see you all there. Time moves fast and we are already planning for the next school year. Kindergarten registration is ongoing and, if you will not be returning to St. Mary's, please contact Mrs. Fowler and let her know. God Bless, Mrs. K. Penrose



OPENING THE DOORS OF MERCY

God of Love and compassion, help us to open the door of mercy in our school communities, in our families and in the world. Let mercy guide our living and bring us closer to the heart of the gospel. May we live as Jesus with mercy that welcomes, loves, forgives and calls us to live the gospel joyfully. Amen.



May 1-6, 2016

### Catholic Education OPENING THE DOORS OF MERCY

Pope Francis has declared 2016 a "Holy Year of Mercy" as a way for the Catholic church to "make more evident, its mission to be a witness of mercy". The Holy Year began on December 8, 2015 and will be celebrated until November 20, 2016. Throughout the year, there will be a series of jubilee celebrations on the theme of mercy for teenagers, deacons, the sick and disabled, prisoners, catechists and clergy. As well, Pope Francis opened the Vatican's Holy Door on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Holy Door is opened to evoke the concept of forgiveness, which is the main focus of a Holy Year. The theme God's mercy is illustrated in fifteen of the sixteen bronze panels that make up the Vatican Door. There are seven such Holy Doors in the world, including one in Quebec City. *Catholic Education Week 2016 combines both the theme of mercy and the act of opening doors of reconciliation, mercy and forgiveness to all around us.*

### Spring clean up

We are hosting a spring school yard cleaning, electronics & clothing drive Saturday April 23 from 8-12. Please bring your own rakes, gloves and shovels. Coffee & treats will be provided. If you are cleaning out your closets you can drop off the donations to us anytime now or on the day of. Let's try for 2 bags per family! Our school will get \$0.13 for each pound of donated items. Also bring used Computers, TV's, camera and video recorders, audio systems, telephones, printers, scanners, keyboards etc. Our school will get \$185.00/metric tonne, which is 2200lbs.



### MOVING OVER THE SUMMER?

Are you moving over the summer? If you are, just a reminder to contact Mrs. Fowler at the school office. This information helps with class reorganization over the summer months.

### It's Time to Register!!

We encourage parents who are looking to register their child for Kindergarten to drop by the office to pick up their copy of the package, which includes a parent booklet, child's activity book and DVD. You can also find all of the information on our board's website at [www.smcdsb.on.ca/parents/kindergarten](http://www.smcdsb.on.ca/parents/kindergarten)

### GRADE 3 & 6 ASSESSMENT

The grades 3 and 6 classes will be involved in the annual Provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics again this year. The grade 3 & 6 students will be writing from May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>. The students will be working on the assessment tasks for about one or two hours each day of the assessment. If your child is engaged in the assessment, it is important to minimize interruptions on the aforementioned dates and please try not to plan any appointments during this time period. We appreciate your support in this respect. If you have any concerns please call the school to discuss.



### SCHOOL BBQ

Please come out and enjoy some fun on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 5-7. Our parent council and staff will be hosting a BBQ for the school families. We are having a magician perform and photo booth too! Hope to see you all there.

### BRADFORD GREENHOUSES GARDEN

**GALLERY HELPS SMB** Our school is happy to announce that we have again this year been chosen by Bradford Greenhouse Garden Gallery to participate in their community fundraising program. Starting April 15<sup>th</sup>, any purchases made can be directed to our school. In November, our school will receive a percentage of the sales in the form of a gift card that we can use to help improve our school gardens. We thank Bradford Greenhouse for this generous fundraising program. So if you are buying plants or shrubs, **remember to tell the cashier that you support St. Mary's School.** Spread the word to family and friends!  
**Last years sales generated ~ \$246.16!!!**



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### SCHOOL ORGANIZATION 2016/17

We are in the midst of organizing our classes for the new school year. Please be aware that many things change during the summer months... families moving into and out of the school area. Generally, our small school population is such that we are subject to both straight and combined classes. Class organization is always a tentative venture based on our present student numbers and preregistrations and could easily change before September. That is one of the main reasons why we do not inform students (or parents) ahead of time who their teacher will be in case they are disappointed when they arrive at school on the first day with their heart set on a particular teacher, or, we have had to re-organize the class lists during the summer and/or first week of school due to an increase or decrease in enrolment. With that in mind, I would ask that if you have a concern about your son/daughter's academic performance that you put into writing, a description of the conditions under which your child works best. This is to be given to Mrs. Penrose at the office by Friday, May 20/16. As we prepare the class lists, your request will be given every possible consideration based on the needs of all the students in the class and in the school.

### COFFEE SUNDAY

As part of our celebration of **Catholic Education Week**, St. Mary's School Community is hosting coffee Sunday at St. Mary's Church on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for donations of baked or bought muffins, cookies, cupcakes and other goodies. We will also need volunteers for the 8 & 10 am Masses to help serve coffee and treats. Please drop off any food donations to the school on Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> or on Sunday at the parish hall. We hope to see you on Sunday to celebrate our faith as a school community. The choir will perform at the 8am Mass.

### LOOKING FORWARD TO...

- April 8 - PA day
- April 13 - Money Mentor workshop – 6:30
- April 15 - Grade 5/6 & 7/8 to Grease play @ St. Joes H.S.
- April 23 - Yard clean up/electronics & Clothes recycling
- April 27 - Wendy's night
- May 11 - St. Mary's CSCC Mtg. – 6:00pm