

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL



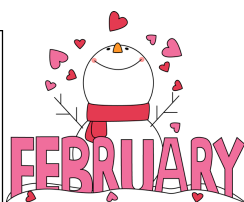
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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

February 2017

Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we are past the halfway point in our school year. Spring is just around the corner! With Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of the Lenten season and we anticipate the start of spring we are reminded that all can be made new and be renewed. During Lent we have an opportunity to improve ourselves through acts of self-discipline and self-control or through acts of charity and kindness. As parents, guardians and educators we have a significant and influential role in guiding our children or students to develop the life long skills and characteristics that they will need to be successful in life. During Lent we model how we can "change our hearts" to develop positive character attributes and change our bad habits into good habits and practices. Lent is a traditional time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent provides us the opportunity of letting go, of changing, and of emptying ourselves in order to find out who we are and draw closer to God. Sincerely K. Penrose



WINTER PRAYER

God of the journey
You give us this Lenten season
To help us grow in faith.
We ask you to open our minds
To become more aware of the needs of those
around us, Open our hearts to grow closer to
you through
A renewed commitment to prayer,
Open our hands to share with those in our
community And in our world
May our sacrifices of prayer, fasting and charity
Deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ,
Who gave His life as a sacrifice for each of us.



It's Registration Time

Welcome to Kindergarten

Starting Kindergarten is an exciting and special time for parents and children. Our entire Catholic school community looks forward to welcoming our youngest students as they begin a lifelong journey of faith-filled learning. We believe there is something truly unique and special about learning that is rooted in faith and spiritual growth. By choosing a faith-filled education, we know you will share that belief with us.

All the Information You Need

To help parents and students get ready for this important milestone, our board has developed an award-winning package. 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.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

We have resources and information available for families whose first language is not English. Please inquire about the ESL version of our Kindergarten package. We are here to answer questions and help you prepare. Please contact Mrs. Sandy Fowler at 705-726-1843 for more information.



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SAFE ARRIVAL

Please remember to contact the school for any lates or absences. You **MUST** also call on **SNOW DAYS** if your child is not attending. There is now an attendance form on our website for parents which sends an email to Mrs. Fowler. Please be aware that teachers should be informed about vacations of 3 days or more in writing. Please send notes to the teacher directly or call the office. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

WENDY'S NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all of our families who came out to our Wendy's Night on November 16th. Our school raised \$375.00!!!



WENDY'S NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Please mark your calendar. Our next Wendy's night is Wednesday May 3rd, from 4:30 – 7:30. We work with Wendy's on Dunlop St. They will donate 10% of all sales, restaurant and drive thru to the school. Come out for dinner and support your school!

What the website looks like. Find us at smb.schools.smcdsb.on.ca

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board is now seeking feedback for our 2017-18 school year calendar. Input in the following areas is appreciated:

- * Placement of elementary PA days
- * Placement of secondary PA days
- * Placement of the secondary examination days
- * Other comments

Please visit our [2017-18 School Year Calendar Consultation](#) page on the board website and view the preliminary elementary and secondary calendars. We welcome your feedback and invite you to fill out the [online feedback form](#). We will be accepting submissions until Friday, March 3, 2017.



ONE KIND WORD
can change
someone's
entire day

The Golden Rule

DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

Your children's safety on the schoolyard is very important, so we must insist that all of our parents follow drop off and pick-up procedures carefully. Staff members are on duty to insure the safety of the children. It is expected that parents and all adults who drop off and pick-up students treat St. Mary's staff respectfully, when directed to follow safety rules, refraining from yelling, name calling and gesturing inappropriately. Our schoolyard is considered a **SAFETY ZONE** for children. **Parents are not allowed on the schoolyard at any time.** The area on the SE side of the school, closest to parking lot is the only place where parents can gather to drop off and pick-up children (large planter box by primary doors behind the fence on the sidewalk). Kindergarten parents must also drop off and pick-up in this area. **No parents are to wait against the kindergarten fence in the schoolyard for their child to enter or exit the building.**

Parking Lot

When entering the parking lot, parents are asked to first find a parking spot and walk their child to the school yard. We do not have a Kiss N' Ride area as it is marked as a **fire route**. All parents are asked to occupy the available parking spaces first. In order to help with the flow of traffic, I would ask that parents who are using the **fire route area** as a drop off zone to please pull up to the end of the laneway and drop your child(ren) off. This area is used as a Kiss N' Ride. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter, as the safety of the children is our first priority. **No Parking Zone means:** You can stop briefly to drop off or pick up passengers, but **waiting in a vehicle or leaving your vehicle unattended is NOT allowed.**

Kiss and Ride: These areas have been designed to make pick-up and drop off at school as quick and efficient as possible. Please **do NOT park or leave vehicle unattended in the Kiss N' Ride area. When entering the Kiss N' Ride area, please move up as close to the end of the laneway as possible, so we can get more vehicles in the area.**

As this area is also a Fire Route, we cannot have any cars parked. As a result, your child is encouraged to dress according to the weather and to walk with friends to school. Thank you for your attention to the matter and co-operation with the procedures. Following the procedures and guidelines outlined above will make student safety a priority.

UP-COMING DATES

~ Family day holiday – no school	Feb 20
~ Report cards home	Feb 22
~ Pink shirt/accessory day!	Feb 22
~ Carnaval Day	Feb 22
~ Pancake Tuesday	Feb 28
~ Ash Wednesday Liturgy – 10:30	March 1