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Happy Retirement!



Farewell to our dear friends

Teresa VanSchaik, Rhonda Cook and Deb Schell

*Wishing you happiness, success
and good health!*





MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

To our St. Mary's Students and Families:

September brought a new beginning for us here at St Mary's and our staff were thrilled to welcome our students back into the building for a new school year. The start has us navigating a new normal as we continue to adjust to our surroundings. Our learning environment remains in a Quadmester system and welcomes all students into our building each day to engage in the learning, build connections with one another and to grow together as a community of inclusivity. We continue to aspire to bring hope, love and a sense belonging to all our students and families throughout this year.

This year in our Pastoral Plan, we are "Sent to Build – Building Bridges to Unite Communities". It encourages us to look outward and will culminate in a mission of outreach and service.

*Joyful Discipleship is found in giving – not having. With a renewed sense of belonging and having been nourished by the Bread and Word of Life, we go into the world – as **Renewing the Promise** expresses – like a **flame of faith in action**. When we come to know and experience Christ we feel compelled to be of service to our neighbour. Pope Francis likens our mission to the world like being in love when he says that "people in love never stand still...they give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving." This is reflected in our Mission Statement for the WCDSB: "As disciples of Christ, we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to **transform God's world**."*

At St. Mary's we will continue to nurture this in all that we do as we live out the Board's mission and find strength and hope in our community that is "Rooted in Faith, Learning in Love, Dedicated to Excellence."

We would like to thank ALL students for their hard work and flexibility in this first quad and as we continue to adapt to this year's learning mode bringing us two longer periods each day. While we know learning one course for the extended 150-minute period is difficult, each of our students have been able to do their very best to adjust, participate and manage the learning which may feel like it is moving quickly. Our extreme gratitude to our parents for your continued support and efforts in helping your students at home and of our school community. Our staff continue to rise to the challenges presented doing an incredible job providing valuable learning within the classroom for students learning face to face and for our students who are learning remotely.

Additionally, this year has allowed many positives with the return of our extensive offerings of clubs, activities, and sports and for that we are grateful. Thank you to all staff for taking on the many extra-curriculars. This Quadmester schedule can be challenging for all, and we thank everyone in our community for your grit and resilience. From a health standpoint, we continue to move in positive direction and hope that this will keep us on the path to more normalcy in our school. We continue to commend all students and staff for their efforts, flexibility, and patience during these times.

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MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM CONTINUED...

The early months of the school year also brought exciting news for some of our staff. We CONGRATULATE our recent retirees and wish them the very best as they begin this next stage of their journey. You will be dearly missed in the nest, but we look forward to your visits (either in person or by sharing your new stories via email and social media). We thank you for sharing your spirit, kindness, courage, and gifts with us for the many years you served this community. Please stay connected and remember you will always be an Eagle!

Moving forward, students will receive their final report cards for Quadmester 1 in the coming weeks, Quadmester 2 will begin on November 15th and our eligible students will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on November 24th & 25th. We will continue to communicate details about the OSSLT and support students in their preparation.

We pray that you continue to find time to rest, relax and enjoy the company of others, remembering that more important than anything is your health, well-being, sense of belonging and safety. We are blessed to be able to serve this community, to work alongside the amazing staff and community partners and parents and caregivers.

We look forward to the start of another successful Quadmester here at St. Mary's.

Sincerely,

The St. Mary's Administration Team

Deanna Wehrle, Michael Ambeau, Dan Ingoldsby, Jamie Rodrigue, Frank Wittmann, Luisa Vona

From the Deacon's Bench...



Hello Eagles,

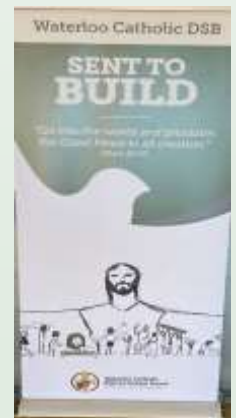
My name is Deacon Ed MacIntosh, but you can call me Deacon or Deacon Ed and I am extremely blessed to be your Chaplain here at St. Mary's.

As we start this school year, I can't help but think that there is a light at the end of the tunnel regarding the whole COVID 19 thing. Most people in our region are double (and in some cases triple) vaccinated and the numbers of those who are fully protected continues to grow.

Here at school, we are preparing to recognize Remembrance Day and offer thanks to the Service Women and Men who gave their lives for the cause of freedom. As well, we recognize those that returned home; some injured & disabled physically or mentally. Let us never forget the lessons of the past and let us never forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Lest we forget.

As the season of Advent also approaches, we take time to think about the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas. Let us take the time to get our lives ready for the coming of the Saviour through prayer and reflection.

We are also very excited to be a part of the launch of the new Pastoral Theme for our Board, "Sent to Build." The theme will be marked with several activities, but the one that we are currently focused on is the **Sent to Build - Unity Bridge**. Staff and students from the Tech Department have started the process of putting a bridge together that will move through our Family of Schools. This bridge will be decorated with the name of groups that our school community is committed to building a bridge with (or improve our bridge with) this year. By the end of April (2022) the bridge will have visited our entire family of schools and should be completely decorated! Special thanks to members of our SAC and the PRISM group for being involved in this worthwhile project.



May God continue to bless you and shower you with love and goodness!

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Deacon Ed, Chaplain



From the Guidance Wing

COUNSELLORS BY ALPHA

Mr. Cameron	Students with last names W - Z and A-B (ext. 5638)
Mr. Taranto	Students with last names C-E + International (ext. 5635)
Ms. Collins	Students with last names F + ICP (ext. 5637)
Ms. Arruda	Students with last names G-K + ELD (ext. 5634)
Ms. Coates	Students with last names L – O (ext. 5628)
Ms. Borman	Students with last names P-R (ext. 5636)
Mr. Lehmann	Students with last names S-V (ext. 5639)
Youth Care Workers	Available to students through referrals from Guidance, Administration, or Program Support
	Ms. Agundmadu (A-L+Active)
	Mrs. Thompson (M-Z—Active)
	Ms. MacGregor (Community)

Here's a brief summary of some of the happenings in guidance over the last few months:

Grade 9

- ◆ **Take Your Kid to Work Day** - took place on November 3rd and Grade 9 students across the country participated.
- ◆ **Grade 9 Presentations** – Guidance counsellors visited Grade 9 classes to welcome students and also discuss the roles of guidance and guidance processes through a Google Slide Presentation that can be accessed on the school website.

Grade 12

- ◆ **Post-Secondary Planning Presentations**— Guidance counsellors visited Grade 12 classes to present the Post-Secondary Presentation and answer any questions. Students received an information sheet on how to apply to colleges and universities, along with their deadlines and research links. The presentation can be accessed on the school website.
- ◆ **PIN** codes for university applications can be picked up from the Guidance secretary. Students must show photo ID.
- ◆ **Scholarship Presentation** - this presentation can be viewed on the school website under students services— guidance— post-secondary and career planning—scholarships, awards, bursaries and loans. We also keep an up-to-date list of scholarships that can be found by following the same path.
- ◆ **College and University Liaison Visits** continue to be virtual this year and run at various times through December. Lots of information regarding different Universities and Colleges and their virtual tours can be found in the Grade 12 google classroom. Many information sessions require an online registration to attend.



From the Guidance Wing

All Grades

- ◆ Ongoing meetings with students and parents

WHAT'S COMING UP

Grade 8

- ◆ **Grade 8 Visits** - In January, a team of St. Mary's Guidance Counsellors and Student Success teachers will be visiting Grade 8 classes to help expose students to the many elective courses that St. Mary's has to offer
- ◆ The Future Eagles tab on the school website will be available for viewing by the end of November. This will include a Grade 8 student and parent presentation.

Course Selections for 2022/2023

- ◆ Presentations and information for all grades will occur in January to the end of February.
- ◆ Course selections for the 2022-2023 school year are due February 25th for all grades

All students are encouraged to enter their 2022/23 course selections into *myBlueprint*, after their guidance presentation.

If your child needs help, please have them book a guidance appointment.

REMINDERS

Grade 12

- ◆ In order to graduate, Community Service hours must be completed and handed in by April 30 (see note below under 'All Students').
- ◆ Please complete the Graduating Eagles Survey to help us continue to support your Pathway Planning at <https://tinyurl.com/3umys5ax>
- ◆ Ensure that you have the prerequisite courses for the post-secondary program(s) you apply to. Make an appointment with Guidance soon in order to make necessary changes for second semester.
- ◆ College applications are due **February 1, 2022** for equal consideration. Apply at www.ontariocolleges.ca. Apply early to avoid disappointment.
- ◆ University applications are due **January 13, 2022** for equal consideration. Apply at www.ouac.on.ca/101. Applying before Christmas is strongly encouraged.



From the Guidance Wing

ALL STUDENTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Due to Covid 19 **this year's graduating students** will only need a total of 20 hours of community service. 10 of those hours are permitted to come from paid employment. If you choose to use 10 hours from paid employment a personal reflection on how your work contributes to the community is required. Please see the community service section on the school website for further details. All other students still need to meet the 40 hour amount by April 30th of their graduating year. Forms to log community service hours are available in the guidance office or can be filled out online using the following link: <https://lf.wcdsb.ca/Forms/APO015-01F>

- * Any students looking for community service hours can check out: www.volunteerwr.ca

COMMUNICATION

- * **Eagle Vision**—updated daily
- * **Guidance Google Classroom** - Students please sign-up for your grade level (codes below).

Gr 9 —6hy5i74

Gr 10 - hbreh7h

Gr 11 - na67dve

Gr 12 - l3ukp5v

SCHEDULES

Students are able to log on to Aspen and see their schedule at any time. When a guidance counsellor makes a change to a student's schedule, the change shows immediately. If needed, instructions on how to log in are on the St. Mary's website banner.

COURSE CHANGES

Due to the quadmester/semester system and our large student population, many course changes to current student schedules may not be possible. Guidance counsellors will always try, but there are limiting factors. This said, students are encouraged to request an appointment with their guidance counsellor if needed through the 'Book a Guidance Appointment' tab on the schools homepage.

Important Reminder

Students must check their wcdsbcloud email frequently as Guidance Counselors may reach out to students. As well, watch for Guidance Google Classroom messages



Pumpkin Carving @ SMH!



Ms. Kropf and Ms. Karlovich's classes decorated small pumpkins on October 20th in the cafeteria. Our ELD classes had a lot of fun! This is the first time celebrating Halloween in Canada for some of our students.





SMH Graduation Information



**The 2022 Convocation Ceremony is currently planned for
Tuesday, June 21st, 7pm at Centre in the Square.**

**While we are planning for an in-person ceremony, a final decision about it will be made by the WCDSB dependent upon Public Health measures and other factors that might affect our ability to run the event safely.*

NEW THIS YEAR - Participation in the Convocation Ceremony is open to all students who are members of the class of 2022 – 4th year grade 12 students (*see your guidance counsellor if you're unsure*). You do not need to have all your 30 credits completed to attend. ***Please note that you will not be invited to attend another ceremony upon completion of your graduation requirements so if you want to participate in a ceremony, this is your only opportunity.***

To **GRADUATE** and earn your **O.S.S.D.** it is **still mandatory** that each student has:

- Successfully completed their diploma requirements of **30 credits** as outlined by the Ministry of Education
- Successfully completed the Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT) or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course
- Completed and documented 20 hours of community service (*note change in total hours per Ministry of Education*) - **due APRIL 30th, 2022**

Please note the following important dates for Post-Secondary Applications:

- University applications due January 13th 2022
- College applications due February 1st 2022

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER REGARDING FEES AND A DATE FOR THE MEETING FOR ALL ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.

Please check the [school website](#) often for updates and information about:

- *Student Information Meeting*
 - *Grad Spirit Wear*
 - *Graduation Photo Dates*
- *Awards & Scholarship Applications*
- *Valedictorian Nominations and Voting*
- *Other Class of 2022 celebrations*

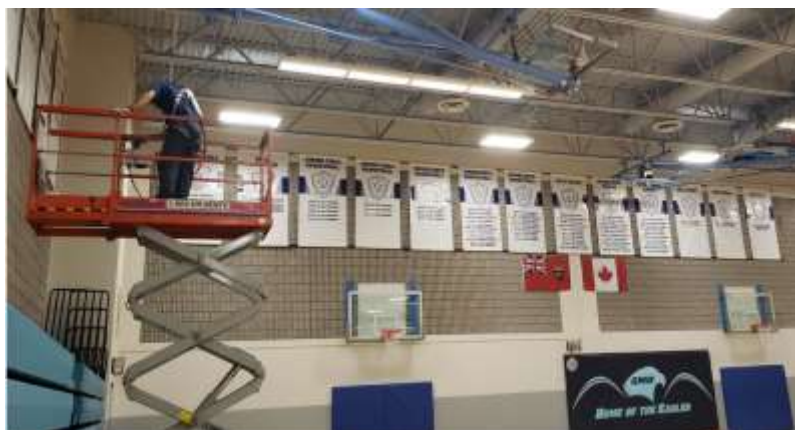


St. Mary's High School

New Athletic Banners

The St. Mary's Athletic Banners were spruced up with additional colour and updated with 70 more championships during the recent past. 36 gleaming banners now hang in the gymnasium representing a variety of fall, winter and spring sports. They serve as a reminder of the successes of current and past Eagles and they contribute to the many legacy projects added to the campus during the past few years.

Many thanks to **Kyle Armour, Tom Mandich, Paul Sanders, Alex Mazza** and **Frank Wittmann** for their assistance in making this happen. The banners were created by retired St. Mary's teacher **Dan Kroetsch**.





Staying Safe @ SMH!

Moving around the building

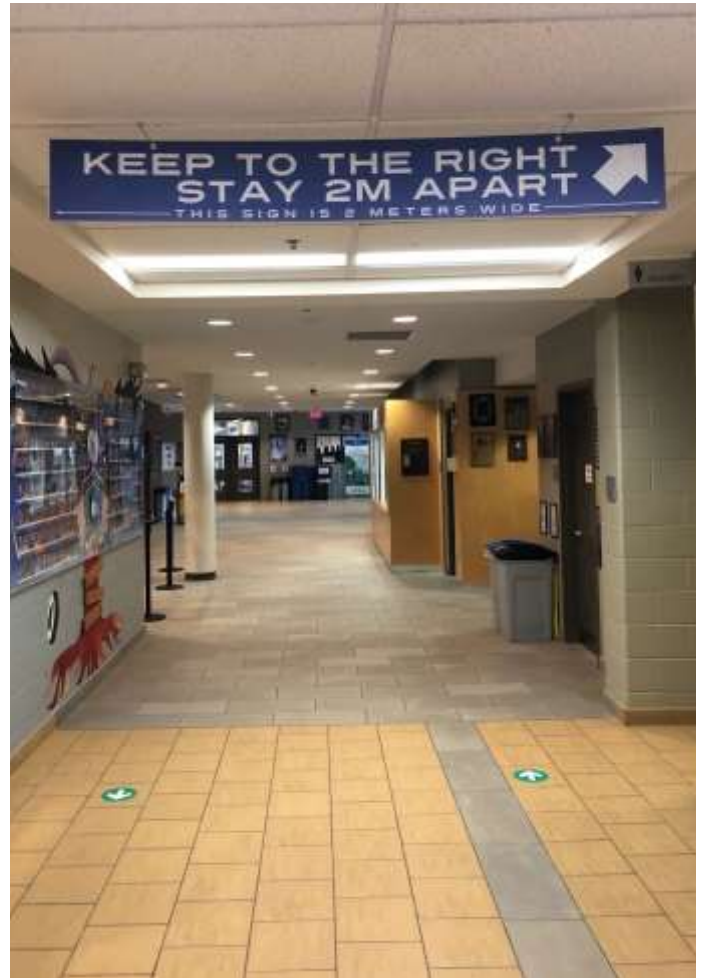
Upon entering the school students are required to **wear a mask and sanitize their hands**, while maintaining a social distance. Sanitizing stations are set up at every entrance/exit.

Students are not to congregate in groups and are asked to promptly move to their morning class upon arrival. Each day will begin with Prayers and announcements while in Face to Face classes.

Should a student need to use the washroom, they are to use the facility located on the same floor as their class.

When traveling within the school, all signage and directions must be observed and followed.

At the end of the day please go to your locker if needed and then **leave immediately** using the closest exit (then doors will be locked).



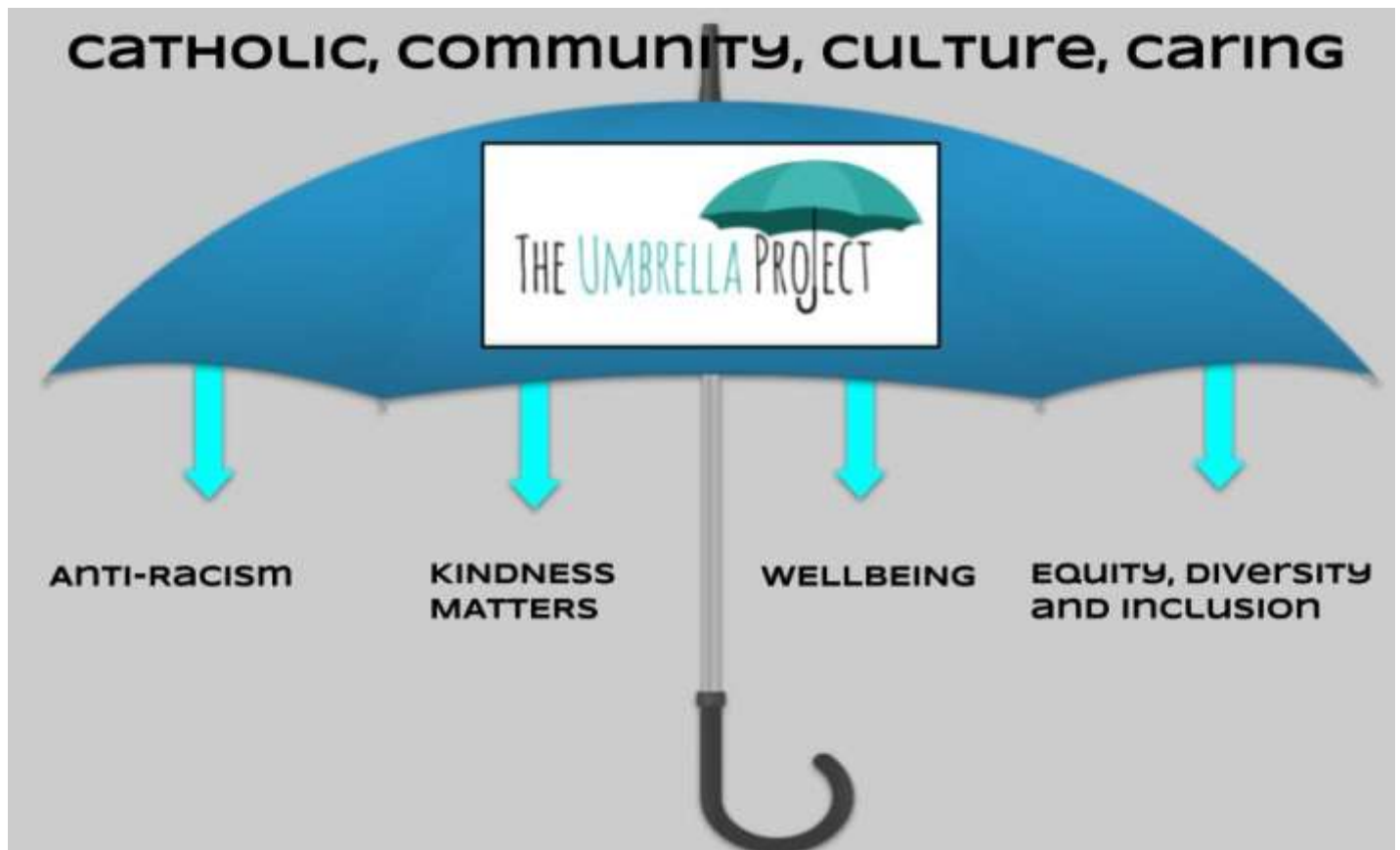
Don't Forget Eagles...

~ Wear a mask ~

~ Sanitize ~

~ Social distance ~





This year we expanded our Umbrella Project campaign to include Anti-Racism, Kindness Matters, Well-Being and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

At St. Mary's, we continue our Kindness Matters campaign "Where Kindness Matters, Community Grows", to work in partnership with Community Justice Initiatives and be intentional in our practice against racism to support learning for staff and students at St. Mary's. Overall Wellbeing is at the forefront of our minds as we all navigate through these very different times supporting one another with the vast number of things occurring in our lives and new learning modes for all.

During Quadmester one, daily announcements supported the continued learning and education for all themes under the Umbrella and to review Umbrella skills learned last year: Grit, Kindness, Empathy, Integrity and Resilience. Quadmester two will bring further professional development and the implementation of the new Umbrella skill: **MINDFULNESS**. Mindfulness is our ability to pay attention to our feelings, thoughts, bodily sensations and our environment, in the moment, without labeling them as good or bad (non-judgement).

Check out our school website, Instagram (smhsac) and Twitter (@St_Marys_Kitch) for continued Umbrella announcements and posts.





A Message From Student Council

SAC has been working diligently to create an atmosphere at the school that is reminiscent of previous years. Our goal this year as student council is to connect the student body and cultivate school spirit by organizing different events and initiatives that continue to abide by COVID-19 guidelines.

Thus far, we have collaboratively organized Welcome Week. This was a week filled with various events that aimed to promote school spirit and welcome our new students to the Eagles nest. We had a morning pep rally, live performance by a student band, field games and activities, ice cream sandwiches, and an opening virtual assembly. We have also launched Eagles News Network (ENN)! This is a video broadcast program that informs the student body



about events occurring throughout the school. This program also aims to feature sports highlights, recognize student achievement and promote clubs. We are always updating our school's social media accounts to keep our students informed about what is occurring throughout the school. Other important initiatives that we have implemented include: a remote google classroom for virtual students, a lunch buddies program for the special education community and a mental health club. We have also planned Halloween week. This is a week filled with activities that nurture the spirit of Halloween. Events include: orange and black shirt day, a Halloween photo booth, Halloween morning music and treat bags for all classrooms.

Overall, we are working to adapt to a new normal and unite through the challenges that we are faced with. As the school year progresses, we look forward to facilitating many more events that foster school spirit. We are so excited to finally be back at school and we hope this year is a year to remember!

Best Regards,

Ava Bizjak
Co-President



Hello from Ms. VanderHeide, your new St. Mary's Librarian!

It's great to return to in-person learning to start the 2021-2022 school year. As a shared space with Kitchener Public Library, our library has procedures in place to reduce the spread of Covid. In addition to these, the usual library expectations still apply:

- **No food or drink** (especially with mask requirements).
- **Full uniform, even if on spare.**
- Students sit in the learning commons area during the school day (**blue plastic chairs**, 9am - 2:45 pm, allowing space for social distancing). **Other seating is reserved for KPL customers.**



Please remember: Properly worn masks are required in the library to protect vulnerable staff & visitors (unvaccinated babies/kids under 12, immunocompromised, etc.)

Current Library Access

The St. Mary's High School/KPL Country Hills library is open to SMHS students, staff, and the community **Monday to Thursday: 9 am–9 pm, and Friday & Saturday: 9 am–5:30 pm.**

Enter via the outside doors (interior doors are locked to control traffic). **Masks must be on before coming inside (snugly covering nose, mouth, and chin). Please use the provided hand sanitizer when entering.**

Lunch Period: With one shared lunch period, the library is open to students for **quick visits only** (library card help, pick up holds, print a document, etc.); there will be **no seating/study space available** to prevent overcrowding.

Class Visits: with social distancing limits the library can't currently host class visits but I can arrange virtual or in-class presentations or pull materials to bring to your class.

Collection: In-person browsing is allowed as social distancing permits. [Use the catalogue](#) before visiting to make your visit more efficient. If educators are sending students from class, please send **1-2 students at a time**, and encourage short visits. You can also [place a holds online](#) with your KPL card (order from any of KPL's 5 locations). You will get an email when your items are ready.

Access [research databases and digital books](#) any time of day, both in school and outside the building (accessing outside the WCDSB network requires [passwords](#)).

Computers: There are currently 2 desktop computers for student printing (black and white, free). A small number of Chromebooks are also available for students to sign out for in-library use (requires a student card or schedule).

Librarian Services

Research, Assignment, and Reading Help: I can assist with research, citations, book selection, staff print/online resource requests, etc. My office hours are 9 am – 3:30 pm, or send an email to christine.vanderheide@wcdsb.ca.

And be sure to visit the [St. Mary's Library Learning Commons website](#) for research help, catalogue access, and other great information!



DECA Business Competition Club



DECA is a Business Competition Club, where students are able to brush up on their independent learning skills and learn about different areas in business. This year for DECA, students are able to participate in a Stock Market Game, Virtual Business Challenges, and various DECA Challenges. These fun competitions are a great way for students to learn skills and information about business that will be helpful in the real world, and prepare them for prospective jobs. In participating in these challenges, students are able to grow their knowledge in specific fields of interest, and learn to have a newfound confidence in themselves through competing. The specialized challenges allow students to participate in something that fits their interests and allows them to do something they will thrive in. Some DECA Challenges involve researching information, and creating presentations in order to inform a certain group about a certain topic or present their solutions to the situation's problem(s). Participating in DECA causes students to push themselves out of their comfort zones and get a taste for what the real world is like in the field of business.

The SMH DECA Club this year has 40 members and will meet until the end of January.

The Club EXEC consists of [Manda Ilic](#), [Jewel Friedmann](#) and [Davis Huehn](#). The Club Advisors are [Christine Byrne](#), [Amanda Jarvis](#) and [Mark Devlin](#).



DECA ONTARIO





Dates to Remember

Final Evaluations for Quadmester 1

November 10 at 9:05am

P. 1 Final Evaluation

November 11 at 9:05am

P. 2 Final Evaluation

November 11

Remembrance Day



November 12

Credit Rescue

Turn around day-no school

November 15

Quadmester 2 Begins

November 19

PD Day-no school

November 22 - 26

Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week

November 24

Pink Shirt Day

November 25

Report Card Distribution

November 26

RAK Day

December 13-17

Grad Photos by appointment only

December 16

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

December 20 - January 1

Christmas Break

January 27

Bell Let's Talk Day

Final Evaluations for Quadmester 2

January 31 at 9:05am

P. 4 Final Evaluation

February 1 at 9:05am

P. 5 Final Evaluation

February 2

PD Day-no school

February 4

Quadmester 3 Begins

February 16

Report Card Distribution

February 17

RAK Day

February 21

Family Day—no school

February 23

Pink Shirt Day

March 2

Ash Wednesday

March 7-11

Grad Photos by appointment only

March 10

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

March 14 - 18

March Break

March 28-31

Grad Photos by appointment only