



Rooted in Faith - Learning in Love - Dedicated to Excellence

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May 2022  
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## Catholic Education Week May 1-6, 2022



## 2022 - St. Mary's - RELAY for LIFE



Friday, June 10, 2022  
9 am to 5 pm



- parent permission form required - due June 1
- online registration - due May 13th
- \$20 registration fee
- \$50 minimum funds raised / donated - due June 1
- \$70 minimum commitment (\$20 + \$50)



the Eagle's View



# MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

To our St. Mary's Families –

We hope this message finds you well and awaiting some more permanent sunny, warm days ahead!

The current week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> has been the start of Catholic Education Week: **Rebuild, Restore, and Renew Together!** We are excited to continue to journey together in faith and celebrate in love and hope. Our community is vital to the success of each, and we rejoice in our partnership with students, parents, community and staff. Our pastoral theme this year is **Sent to Build** and we continue to rejoice in the positive relationships that build to support the success for each of our Eagles.

The start of February brought another change, a return to something familiar for some and something brand new for others – a move from quadesters to semesters. This meant a full complement of four courses for students and 75-minute class periods. We know this brought mixed feelings of excitement and apprehension. Teachers and students have adjusted to the semesters, and finding that classes seem to fly by!

Once we returned from March Break, we were also able to open up the cafeteria to full capacity and this was a welcome change for our students. The cafeteria server remains closed at this time and selling food, but we are looking at options for September.

While many of our extra-curricular activities and sports have occurred throughout the school year, we are finally back to a full schedule and look forward to an exciting finish to the year with post-seasonal sport championships, field trips and graduation celebrations

The Relay for Life event, which has occurred yearly at St. Mary's is back in person this year and will take place on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 5 pm. We are excited to once again honour those who have had their lives affected in countless ways by cancer.

In recent weeks you have been made aware of the new graduation requirement of eLearning courses, 2 for our current grade 9 students and 1 for our current grade 10 students. Please reach out to Guidance for further supports and know that more information will be provided and details for those wishing to opt out will come in the near future.

We are only eight weeks away from our final school day of the 2021-2022 school year and while there is much work to be done, we know time will move quickly. Our senior students that are applying to post-secondary schools have just had their semester two mid-term marks submitted to the colleges and universities and wait to hear from potential schools. Then the decision about the next step in their educational journey will occur. Please continue to seek out support from the staff at St. Mary's as you work through this decision.

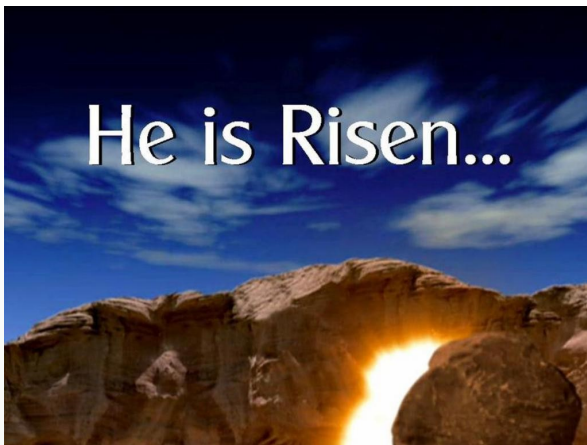
Finally, continued gratitude to each of you as you support your child with their learning and for your partnership as we work together towards the success for each and a place for all. St. Mary's is a community that is rooted in faith, who learns in love and is dedicated to excellence.

We hope you and your family remain well! God Bless each of you and your families!

The St. Mary's Administrative Team

Michael Ambeau, Delmar Borba, Luisa Vona, Deanna Wehrle, Frank Wittmann

## From the Deacon's Bench...



Lent was truly a time for our students and staff to prepare, through our Morning Prayers and other in-school activities, for the coming celebrations of the Easter Season.

Our Chapel and the classroom Prayer Centres are now decorated with white cloths and will remain until the end of the Easter Season on Pentecost Sunday in June.

We are looking ahead with excitement to Catholic Education Week in the first week of May. We will celebrate with a Liturgy of the Word in our Chapel that will be “live streamed” to all classrooms in the school.

May God continue to bless you and our entire Eagle family in a special way during the Easter Season.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

Mary, Mother of God; pray for us!!

Deacon Ed



## St. Mary's Library Learning Commons

### Sora eBooks and Audiobooks



WCDSB staff and students have access to **free** eBooks and audiobooks through the Sora app. Read on your phone, tablet, Chromebook, or desktop computer.

New to Sora? Visit the St. Mary's Library website to find out how to access Sora:

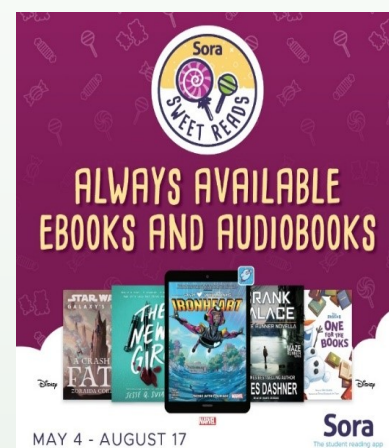
<https://vlcguides.wcdsb.ca/stmary/Sora>

### Sora Sweet Reads Reading Program

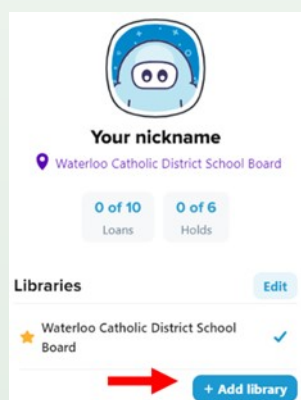
OverDrive's annual Sora Sweet Reads program encourages students to keep reading all year long. A collection of free and simultaneous use junior and young adult eBooks and select audiobooks will be available to sign out in the Sora app from **May 4 - August 17** so students can find their next sweet read!

Visit <https://resources.overdrive.com/sora-sweet-reads/>

for the list of will be available this year.



### Add Your Kitchener Public Library Card to the Sora App to Access Even More Books



1. Click the **+ Add library** button.
2. Search for **"Kitchener Public Library"** and choose **"downloadLibrary"** from the results.
3. It will ask for your KPL library card number.

After doing this your search results should show both books from WCDSB's collection and the Kitchener Public Library's collection.

### Request an eBook

Looking for an eBook but can't find it in our collection? Or are you a teacher needing an eBook for a remote student, or want to explore the possibility of getting an eBook class set for your students? Email Ms. VanderHeide at [Christine.vanderheide@wcdsb.ca](mailto:Christine.vanderheide@wcdsb.ca) to find out what's possible.



## *From the Guidance Wing*

### **Course Selection**

Students have now entered their course selections for next year. They were directed to check requirements for both their 'diploma, and 'Red Seal' if they are in High Skills Major, in addition to their post-secondary requirements. myBlueprint has links to this information and research.

### **Please note:**

Students will receive confirmation of course selections for next year with their semester 2 midterm report card. Students who wish to make changes to their course selections need to request a guidance appointment through the school website by the middle of May.

**After that time, there will be limited course changes until the second week of September.**

### **Summer School**

Students who wish to take summer school can sign up directly at <https://stlouis.wcdsb.ca/summer-programs/summer-credit/>. Students will need their OEN and their guidance counsellor's email address. Additional summer school offerings have been communicated through the guidance google classroom. Students who wish to take a summer school course from another school board need to register through their guidance counsellor. Please make an appointment.

### **Community Service Hours**

In order to graduate in June, grade 12 students have until the end of April to complete their 20 hours of community service. All community service hour information including a link to submit them electronically can be found <https://stmary.wcdsb.ca/student-services/guidance/community-service/>.

Volunteer hour submissions are due by **April 30, 2022**. For volunteering ideas refer to the website [www.volunteerkw.ca](http://www.volunteerkw.ca)

### **Interested in a 5<sup>th</sup> Year?**

Students who have applied to college or university but who have now decided they would like to return to St. Mary's for an extra semester, need to request a guidance appointment in May.

## **CONVOCATION 2022**

**Save the Date: Tuesday June 21, 2022**

All plans are tentative and are based on Public Health restrictions and requirements. At this time, we are planning for an in person ceremony at Centre in The Square. We will have the most up to date Grad information on the Graduation page on the school website: <https://stmary.wcdsb.ca/parents/current-students/graduation-information/>





# SMH Convocation Information



It is with pleasure that we invite you to participate in St. Mary's High School Convocation Ceremony.

**Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Centre in the Square**

**7pm**

To be eligible to participate in convocation, it is **mandatory** that each student does the following:

Has successfully **completed the Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT)** or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course

Has completed and documented **20 hours of community service** (due in Guidance by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

Is a member of the 2022 grade 12 cohort – you do not need to have completed your 30 credits by June to participate in the ceremony BUT **Completion of 30 credits is still required to receive your high school diploma.**

Visit School Cash Online to pay the Fee, submit Gown size and sign Photography Waiver

Please be aware of **Fee Collection Dates:**

<b>Convocation Fees</b>	<p><b>Ceremony - \$90</b></p> <p><i>(guaranteed 2 Guest Tickets per student with max 4 per student pending final attendance and venue protocols – student attendee does not require a ticket) <b>includes Souvenir keepsake gown, cap &amp; v-stole</b></i></p> <p><b>Breakfast &amp; Liturgy - \$10 – date to be confirmed</b></p> <p><b>Souvenir Gown, Cap &amp; V-Stole ONLY - \$20</b></p>
<b>Fee Collection</b>	<p><b>Pay ONLINE</b> through School Cash Online – link on St. Mary's website (<a href="http://stmary.wcdsb.ca">http://stmary.wcdsb.ca</a>)</p> <p><b>Payment Dates: April 11<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Payment may not be accepted and participation in the ceremony not guaranteed after May 20<sup>th</sup> deadline.</i></p> <p><b>Ticket Allocations</b> – Centre in the Square requires that all seats are assigned to audience members – tickets will be specific to rows and seat numbers for each student. <b>We will assign seats based on the order of fee payment.</b></p> <p><b>Special Seating Requirements</b> – for guest requiring assistance or special seating (wheelchair access, mobility, visual or audio proximity) please contact the main office to request this at time of fee payment and before the May 13<sup>th</sup> deadline.</p>



# SMH Convocation

## Information continued....



Additional important dates include:

Community Service Hours Due	April 30 <sup>th</sup>
Community Award Applications Due	April 30 <sup>th</sup>
Breakfast and Liturgy	Date To Be Confirmed – more info coming
Yearbook Pickup	For those who purchased one - Available October 2022 – Pick up in the main office (check website for availability dates, <a href="http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/">http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/</a> )  <i>If you still want to purchase, go to School Cash Online now - \$30</i>

### Tickets and Rehearsal

Tickets for entry into the Centre in the Square (4 tickets per student participant, participant does not require a ticket) and details concerning the night of convocation such as start time, dress code, rehearsal details, etc. will be distributed in May/June after the fee payment deadline. All guests, including children and babies in laps, need a ticket to get in. Special Seating must be reserved ahead of time through the school at time of Fee payment. **Students are expected to arrive at Centre in the Square by 5:15pm** for check in, instructions and rehearsal. Arriving after this time may forfeit your seat on stage!

### Awards

There are many awards available including Scholarships, Community Sponsored Awards and Subject Awards. Many of these awards require an application. We encourage you to look over the list of available awards and submit an application to the person or group indicated on that application and website. The Award List is posted on the graduation page on our website (<http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/>).

### Yearbook Pickup

Yearbooks will be available in October, 2022. Pick yours up in the main office or send a note along with a friend or sibling to pick it up for you (check website for availability dates, <http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/>).

### Convocation Ceremony Eligibility

All students who are part of the Grade 12 Class Cohort are eligible to participate in the convocation ceremony this year even if they haven't earned all 30 credits. **Students still need to complete 30 credits to earn their high school diploma**, but even if a student comes back for a 5<sup>th</sup> year to finish their diploma, this year's ceremony is the only ceremony they can attend.

If there are questions about this, please contact your guidance counsellor for clarification.

If you have any questions regarding the convocation ceremony in general, please contact the main office.



# Tutoring Program at St. Mary's

The Ministry of Education has recently announced a grant for schools to provide FREE school tutoring for students.

This is welcomed news and may provide some additional support for students who have had their learning interrupted as a result of the pandemic.

Students are welcome to attend these “drop in” tutoring sessions that will be offered Monday through Thursday every week. The sessions will last one hour in duration and will be offered 4 times per week. Various teachers will be available to support students working on assignments, homework and/or test preparation in their courses. We are hopeful that this will be a great opportunity for St. Mary's students to improve their level of achievement in their courses, complete outstanding work or receive extra help with challenging concepts. The sessions will run until June 20<sup>th</sup>.

If this is an opportunity that you think would benefit your student, please have your student drop by during the times indicated below. Please check out all details on the banner on the St. Mary's Website: <https://stmary.wcdsb.ca/>

## Tutoring Program Schedule

Location: Classrooms 234 and 236

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Dates: Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> until June 20<sup>th</sup>

If you have any questions about the program, please contact at 519-745-6891





# Ontario Poet Laureate Visits St. Mary's

On Tuesday March 29th, Randell Adeji, visited St. Mary's High School and led a writer's workshop for students. Adeji is the first ever Poet Laureate for the province of Ontario and is a member of the Legislature for the Province of Ontario. Part of his mandate is to promote art and literacy in Ontario as well as raise the profile of poets and poetry.

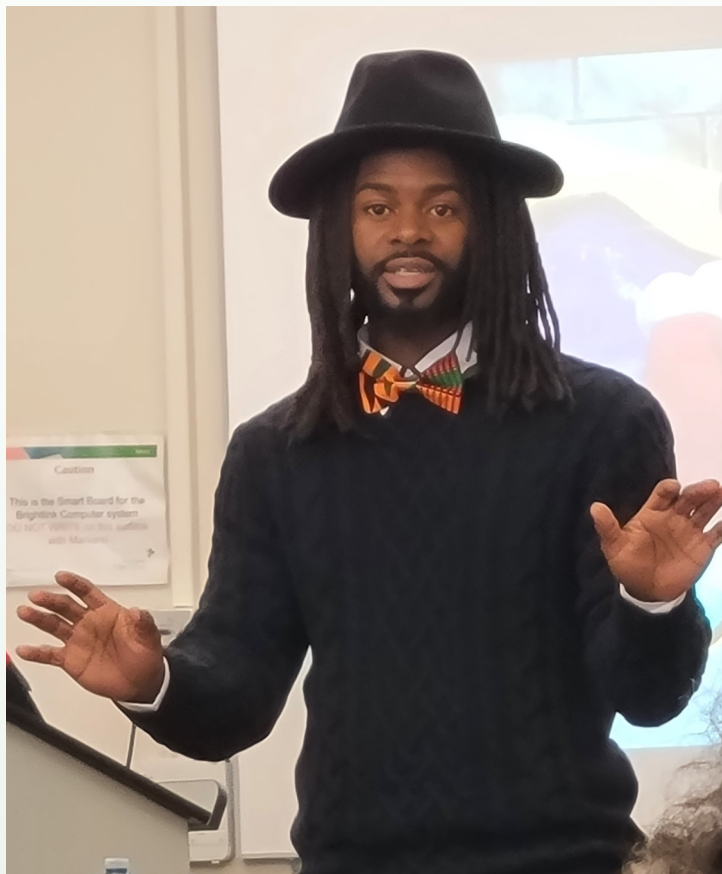
Several students from the school were invited to attend, including members of the Writing Cub, Black Matter's club and several English classes. Gathered in the library seminar room of the KPL, students had an opportunity to hear Adeji recite and perform several of his original poems. Additionally, he led multiple creative writing activities which allowed students to engage in the writing process and learn alongside Adeji.

After school, Adeji led a professional development workshop for teachers in the area of Language and Communication. His focus during this workshop was to help educators find ways to not only better engage students with creative writing, but also how to invite students to authentically use their personal experiences as a springboard for creative writing. During the workshop he publicly thanked and acknowledged the influence that several of his own teachers had on him.

Growing up in Scarborough, Adeji's early adolescence found him in conflict with law and often suspended from school. Through the support of his teachers, Adeji literally found his voice and passion for creative writing and later graduated high school with honours as well as voted class Valedictorian. He later established, and continues to facilitate, a spoken word collective called R.I.S.E. (Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere).

Adeji currently has one book of published poetry titled *I Am Not My Struggles* which features a series of poems showcasing his wordsmithing along with poignant reflections on some of the challenges experienced by many members of society. Much of Adeji's work takes inspiration from his own narrative.

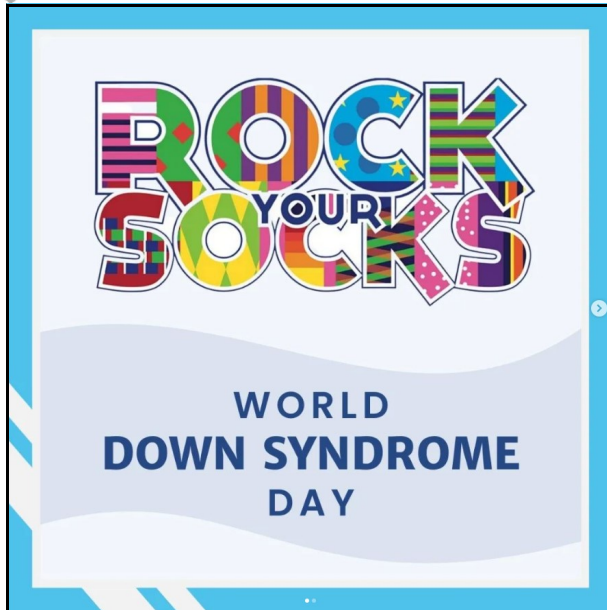
St. Mary's is fortunate and thankful for Adeji's visit as it was an amazing opportunity to learn alongside an inspirational and aspiring creative Canadian talent.





# Student Activities Council

Check out some of the events & plans that SAC has been up to lately:



## Eagles Nest Videos on Instagram:



Ep. 2: SMH Fit Check ✓

the Eagle's View



# Student Activities Council

## Mental Health Week:





# IN-PERSON RELAY FOR LIFE RETURNS TO SMH!



Relay for Life is an incredible event that raises money for the Canadian Cancer Society. On top of raising funds for much-needed cancer supports and treatments, Relay for Life brings the school community together for an amazing day!

This year's Relay for Life will happen on our school football field on **June 10th from 9 AM until 5 PM**. As participants walk around the field, there will also be awesome events that they can participate in all around them, such as team challenges, jumbo games, a talent show, raffle table, free bbq, food trucks, and so much more!

On top of all of the fun that day, we also begin the event with a lap honouring our cancer survivors. We close the event with a powerful luminary ceremony where we celebrate our survivors, remember those we have lost, and hope for a cure.

**Registration for Relay costs \$20** and the registration fee includes an event t-shirt, free BBQ lunch, and all of the activities for the day. The **last day to register is May 13th**, so be sure to register soon!

**Student Registration Link (also available on our school website):**  
<http://relayforlife.ca/stmaryskitchener>





Each student who registers must raise a minimum of \$50 in support of the Canadian Cancer Society (you will be given an online fundraising page when you register). There are tons of ways to fundraise such as sharing the link to your fundraising page on social media with friends and family, or hosting a garage sale, bake sale or car wash.

If you are interested in donating a prize for our raffle table at the event, please contact [shawna.kropf@wcdsb.ca](mailto:shawna.kropf@wcdsb.ca). All donations are greatly appreciated!

Please help us reach our fundraising goal of \$40,000 in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. The link to donate is available on our school website.  
<http://relayforlife.ca/stmaryskitchener>

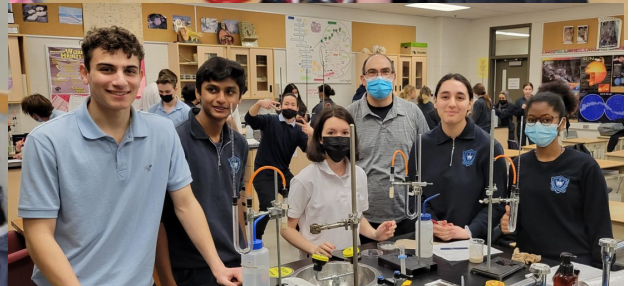
## Eagles, let's help make cancer history!



the Eagle's View



# Connecting and Building Relationships



the Eagle's View



# Dates to Remember



## May 1

Administrators Day  
(Principals & VP's)  
Catholic Education Week  
Mental Health Week

## May 4

Blue Shirt Day  
Mid-Term Report Distribution  
(period 1)

## May 7

National Child and Youth Mental  
Health Day

## May 8

Mother's Day



## May 10

OSSLT (Literacy Test)

## May 17

International Day against  
Homophobia, Transphobia  
And Biphobia  
PSW Appreciation Day  
ESL Grade 8 Virtual  
Parent Night

## May 18

Purple Shirt Day

## May 23

Victoria Day

## May 26

Dress Down Day

## May 30

Catholic School Advisory Council

## June 1

Pride Month Begins  
Student vote (period 1)

## June 2

Provincial Election Polling Station

## June 3

CYCW/PSW Day  
Educational Assistants Day  
PA Day

## June 8

Athletic Banquet

## June 10

Relay for Life



## June 15-16

Locker Clean Up

## June 15-17

Quiet Day

## June 19

Father's Day



## June 20

Grade 12 Evaluation for Per. 2  
Regular classes for grade 9-11

## June 21

Evaluations for period 1 all grades  
National Indigenous People's Day  
Afternoon Credit Rescue  
Graduation at Centre in  
the Square



## June 22

Grades 9-11 Evaluation for Per. 2  
Instructional Support Day for grade  
12 students  
Afternoon Credit Rescue

## June 23

Evaluation for Per. 4 all grades  
Afternoon Credit Rescue

## June 24

All Lockers Must be Emptied  
Evaluation for Per. 5 all grades  
Afternoon Credit Rescue

## June 27

Assessment and Evaluation Credit  
Recovery/Rescue

## June 28

Assessment and Evaluation Credit  
Recovery/Rescue