



Rooted in Faith - Learning in Love - Dedicated to Excellence

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February, 2023
Volume 15 Number 2

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Getting Ready For Graduation

**Class of
2023**



March 13th—17th, 2023

the Eagle's View



MESSAGE FROM ADMIN.

We are happy to welcome students back to the start of another semester here at St. Mary's. The first few weeks are off to a great start as students settled into their new schedules.

February began with the culmination of semester one as students completed final evaluation and summative activities. Report cards for semester one will be distributed through period one and will make their way home with students by February 17th. Please connect with your child to review the report card.

We also celebrated our semi-formal hosted at Bingemans early this month. It was the first in many years and was a wonderful celebration for the students. Course selection presentations are also underway as students prepare to choose courses for the 2023-2024 school year. Should you have questions about this process or need to connect to support in your child's options, please contact your child's Guidance Counsellor. Course selections are due in My Blueprint by March 1st, 2023.

February is Black Heritage Month, and our Black Matters Club is celebrating and sharing information through daily announcements both at school and on our Instagram account. Please follow [@SMHSac](#) to see the significant contributions and influence Black leaders, artists, entrepreneurs and academics have on the world we live in today.

We continue to invite parents and students to access our school website for the most up to date and timely communication regarding our school schedule, course selection deadlines, and our school year calendar.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support the social-emotional health and academic success of your own children. We hope you and your family remain well! God Bless each of you and your families!

Michael Ambeau, Delmar Borba, Kevin Hinsperger, Luisa Vona, Deanna Wehrle
The St. Mary's Administrative Team

From the Deacon's Bench...

Deacon Ed MacIntosh



Greetings Eagle Families!!

Due to a possible safety issue, we have set up a “Temporary Chapel” in the Chapel Boardroom. This very convenient space has been home to our Wednesday Lunchtime Masses (with pizza afterwards) for the last few weeks. We are hoping to get the “all clear” to return to the Chapel for Ash Wednesday which will very soon be upon us.

First Semester is now fading in our rear-view mirror and Second Semester is staring us in the face. There were lots of great things that happened and more wonderfully fun and educating activities coming down the pipe.

For me, I would say that one of my favourite things in Semester One were the Gr. 10 Religion Retreats. When this group of Grade 10's was back in Grade 8 (2021), they were unable to participate in their Retreat Experience because of COVID. This retreat, for many, was their first “school trip” in almost 3 years.

We will continue these retreats in Semester Two with the Gr. 10's and will also add a Graduation Retreat for Gr. 12 students. Fr. Gary Schlack will lead a major portion of the Grad Retreat speaking about the Shroud of Turin and Vocations.

We had distribution of ashes for Ash Wednesday once again this year. The format was a bit different, but we were able to get ashes to all students who wished to receive them.

As we look ahead, we are anxiously waiting for Easter, which we will celebrate in April and Catholic Education Week in May.

May God continue to look favourably on you and bless you abundantly with His love!

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Amen

Deacon Ed



From the Guidance Wing

COUNSELLORS BY ALPHA

Mr. Cameron	Students with last names A-B and X-Z (ext. 5638)
Mr. Taranto	Students with last names C-F and W (ext. 5635)
Ms. Arruda	Students with last names G-K (ext. 5634)
Ms. Mandich	Students with last names L-O (ext. 5637)
Ms. Coates	Students with last names P-R and international program (ext. 5628)
Mr. Lehmann	Students with last names S-V (ext. 5639)

YOUTH CARE WORKERS

Youth Care Workers are available to all students through referrals from Guidance, Program Support, Student Success, and Administration to support their school success.

Course Selection 2023-2024

Course Selection information can be found <https://stmary.wcdsb.ca/student-services/guidance/course-selection/>

1. **MyBlueprint** is the education planning website for students to select courses and conduct career planning.
2. Students need to submit next year's course selections into **myBlueprint** by **March 1, 2023**. Course selection presentations were delivered earlier January through mid-February. These presentations can be found on the school website under student services.
3. Students will input parent's email address after submitting their courses. Parent's receive an email and decide to approve or not approve their child's course choices for 2023-2024.
4. Looking for help with course selection? If you still have questions about courses after viewing the course selection presentation on the website, guidance counsellors will be hosting lunch time drop-in sessions mid-February. More information will be posted on the guidance announcements. The course calendar can be found on the school website under student services—guidance—course calendar
5. **Please note:**
Once the "**Submit**" button has been pressed, the program will not allow students to make further changes, so please **choose carefully**. Students who wish to make changes to their course selections need to request an appointment with their guidance counsellor.



From the Guidance Wing – Continued

College and University Process

College Applicants:

All applications were due **February 1, 2023**, for equal consideration.

University Applicants:

Applications were due **January 13, 2023**, for equal consideration. **June 1** is the latest date for students to accept an offer from an Ontario university.

Tracking Application Process:

Students must go into their online college/university application at the **end of February** to check the following:

- That your marks are loaded accurately.
- That your community service hours and literacy test results are accurate.
- That any supplementary applications or information required for individual programs is present.

Scholarships

For scholarships, visit the school website for information about current scholarships/bursaries for post secondary.

Summer School

Before March 1, 2023—Students choose summer school courses in myBlueprint under the 'Summer' code.

After March 1, 2023—All summer school information and opportunities will be posted through guidance announcements.

Community Service Hours

Grade 12 students have until **April 30** to complete their 40 hours of community service. We encourage all students to get their hours done and submitted as soon as possible. For volunteer placement ideas visit the Volunteer Waterloo Region website www.volunteerwr.ca

Interested in a 5th year?

Students who have applied to college or university but who decide they would like to return to St. Mary's for an extra semester need to book an appointment with their counselor before the end of the semester.

Grade Eight Students

From November to January, Grade 8s from our feeder schools visited St. Mary's for a half day of exploring elective opportunities, an interactive tour and a transition presentation by guidance. Thank you to Ms. Kropf's peer leadership class and our Link leaders for showing our future Eagles around.

Staying Informed: sign up for Guidance announcements





SMH 2023 GRADUATION & CONVOCATION INFORMATION

GRADUATION = Fulfilling the mandatory requirements to receive your Ontario Secondary School Diploma

CONVOCATION = Ceremony to *celebrate the Class of 2023* (the group of students who started grade 9 in 2019) at the end of their 4th year of high school – **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COMPLETE ALL GRAD REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONVOCATION** – you can **ONLY** attend convocation **ONCE** after your 4th year unless advised differently by your guidance counselor.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To earn your OSSD & Graduate, it is **mandatory** that each student has;

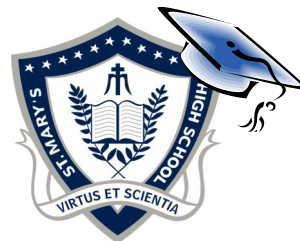
- **successfully completed** their diploma requirements of **30 credits** as outlined by the Ministry of Education by August 1st, 2019. There are **no exceptions to this requirement**.
- successfully completed the Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT) or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course
- completed and documented 40 hours of community service (due in Guidance by April 30th, 2023)

CONVOCATION REQUIREMENTS

- be a member of the cohort who started grade 9 in 2019 (*if you are a grade 12 who did not start St. Mary's in 2019 – please see your guidance counsellor for more info*)
- pay the convocation fees as described on the following page.

CONVOCATION INFORMATION

Thursday, June 15th
Centre in the Square
7pm



the Eagle's View



SMH 2023 GRADUATION & CONVOCATION INFORMATION

CONVOCATION INFORMATION

Convocation Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Ceremony - \$90 - includes Souvenir keepsake gown, cap with year tassel & v-stole (guaranteed 2 Guest Tickets per student with max 4 per student pending final attendance – student attendee does not require a ticket) ◇ Breakfast & Liturgy - \$10 – date to be confirmed ◇ Souvenir Gown, Cap with year tassel & V-Stole ONLY - \$20 (for those who are not attending the ceremony but want the souvenir)
Fee Collection	<p>Pay ONLINE ONLY through School Cash Online – link on St. Mary’s website (http://stmary.wcdsb.ca)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Payment Dates: Feb 1st – April 1st 2023</p> <p><i>*Payment may not be accepted and participation in the ceremony not guaranteed after April 1st deadline.</i></p> <p>Ticket Allocations – 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 ticket pack. SEATS WILL BE ASSIGNED BASED ON ORDER OF FEE PAYMENT.</p> <p>Special Seating Requirements – 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 1st.</p>



SMH 2023 GRADUATION & CONVOCATION INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Grad Photos	March Dates – use this link to book an appointment.
Community Service Hours Due	April 30 th
Community Award Applications Due	April 30 th
Breakfast and Liturgy	Date To Be Confirmed – more info coming
Grad Retreat	Date, Location & Fee To Be Confirmed – more info coming
Ticket & Gown Pick Up	Week of June 5 th – Board Room (beside Main Office)
Yearbook Pickup	For those who purchased one - Available October 2023 – Pick up in the main office (check website for availability dates, http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/) <i>If you still want to purchase, go to School Cash Online now - \$30</i>

Tickets & Gown Distribution

Tickets and gown packages along with details concerning the night of convocation such as start time, dress code, rehearsal details, etc. will be distributed the week of June 5th. All guests (except participating student), 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 for check in and rehearsals 2 HOURS prior to the ceremony so please ensure that family members who will arrive later have their tickets with them. Students who arrive late will forfeit their 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 Awards List is posted on the convocation page on our website (<http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/>).



Tutoring Program at St. Mary's

We are excited to share that the Ministry of Education continues to offer a tutoring grant for schools to provide FREE school tutoring for students. This is welcomed news and may provide some additional support for students.

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 your student to improve their level of achievement in their courses, complete outstanding work or receive extra help with challenging concepts. The sessions will continue from February 6, 2023 and run until March 11, 2023.

If this is an opportunity that you think would benefit your student, please have your student drop in at any time. 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 – 4:00pm

Dates: February 6, 2023 - March 11, 2023

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



the Eagle's View



Specialist High Skills Major students are getting ready for another great semester of certifications, training sessions, and ways to explore and learn more about future careers. Students involved in SHSM have been busy planning to earn their Red Seal diploma through course completion and attending trainings to earn certifications.

At St Mary's we have 133 grade 12 students who could potentially earn their SHSM Red Seal designations this year. There are also 329 grade 11 students involved in the program. Grade 10 students are beginning to decide which of the 11 Majors they should get involved in, with 137 currently signed-up for the program. Students will be given the following list of options during their Careers class presentations.

Arts & Culture	Business	Construction
Energy	Health & Wellness	Hospitality & Tourism
Information & Communications Technology		Justice & Community Safety
Manufacturing	Sports	Transportation

Students involved in the program will need to follow through on SHSM expectations before they graduate. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...:

1. Take the Courses needed to complete their Major
Arts, Business, Physical Education, Science, Math, Technology, and many more.
2. Sign up for a 2 credit Co-op
Develop skills and experience in an area of interest.
3. Plan and attend Certifications (highskills.ca)
1st Aid, CPR-C, WHMIS, GPS Training, Safe Body Mechanics, Conflict Resolution, Culinary Techniques, Management Leadership, Counterfeit Detection, Safe Lifting & many more!

SHSM students should be proud of their accomplishments related to this program. It shows they are a responsible student who has given extra thought to their future.

See highskills.ca for more information

Contact: Mrs Byrne (Lead SHSM Teacher at St. Mary's, christine.byrne@wcdsb.ca) or SHSM@wcdsb.ca

Have a College Experience while you are in High School!

★ 5 ★ PROGRAMS

Offered centrally across
the WCDSB in partnership
with Conestoga College

Learn more at
DualCredit.wcdsb.ca

Meet with your
Guidance Teacher

Select Dual Credit in
myBlueprint

Complete the Co-op
Application Form

Get ready to learn
on campus!



CAPP - College Apprenticeship Preparation Program

Transition to Apprenticeship in Carpentry, Auto Service, or Welding through 2 Dual Credit courses and a 2 credit Co-op experience



CCEP - College Co-op Program

Transition to college study in Law and Security, Design, Health, or ECE/PSW through 2 Dual Credit courses and a 2 credit Co-op experience



SWAC - School Within a College

Transition to college study and wrap up your OSSD requirements by taking Dual Credit courses, and secondary credits on a college campus full-time



Exploring the Trades

Focus on either Culinary, Baking, Welding/Plumbing, Electrical/HRAC, or Carpentry through 2 Dual Credit courses at Conestoga College and a 2 credit Co-op experience



OYAP Level 1 at Conestoga

Ready to start your apprenticeship study and have an employer ready to sign you up as an apprentice? Limited seats are available for Level 1 at Conestoga; interview required



- Tuition & Textbooks
- Transportation to the College for the Dual Credit class days (school bus, taxi, parking pass, or bus tickets)
- Personal Protective Equipment (Safety Boots and Safety Glasses up to \$100)
- SHSM certifications to complete the program
- College experience on campus!



Experiential Learning
Your Path • Your Choice • Your Future

[HTTPS://DUALCREDIT.WCDSB.CA](https://dualcredit.wcdsb.ca)



the Eagle's View



Student Activity Council



Check out what SAC has been up to lately!



WINTER HOLIDAYS



Activities from December:

SMH Community Christmas Dinner

The annual SMH Christmas Dinner happened for the first time since Covid. Students, staff, and families came together to enjoy the dinner and desserts with holiday music.



SMH Christmas Movie Night

A showing of the Grinch with hot chocolate and popcorn, along with a Christmas spirit competition.

Other Activities Included:

Door decorating contest, cheer drive fundraiser, gingerbread house contest and card making stations.

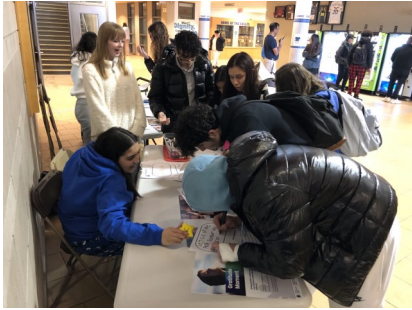


the Eagle's View



Mental Wellness

Mental Health Anti-Stigma Week



Self-Care Bingo card with mental health basket prizes for those who won the raffle



WCDSB Let's Talk Booth with worksheets and colouring sheets to highlight the importance of mental wellness

SEMI FORMAL DANCE



SAC was very excited to host the first Semi-Formal dance since Covid. It was held at Bingemans in their Embassy hall with music, food, dancing, and a photobooth where students got to bring home pictures with their friends.

We hope everyone had a great time!



the Eagle's View



Eco Team Baking



Eco-Team worked together on December 21 to make delicious vegan cookies.



We learned how to prepare the dough, rolling it into a ball to prepare it for being flattened, and applying flour to avoid it from sticking.



We made holiday themed shapes out of the flattened dough, baked them and enjoyed the cookies. The cookies' great taste surprised some, showing that even vegan food can be delicious.

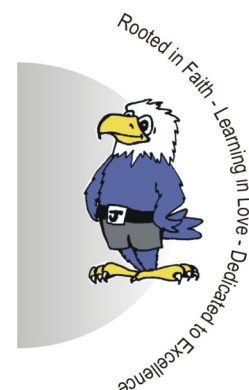


Senior Guitar Recital



On January 18th 2023 there was Senior Guitar Recital for Mrs. Turman's senior guitar class. It featured songs and styles that ranged from classical to funk and heavy metal. It was a full house in room 141 and a huge success. Thank you to all who came out to support our students and music programming here at St. Mary's H.S.

- Mrs. Alicia Turman



Finding The Perfect Book

St. Mary's Library Learning Commons

with Christine VanderHeide, St. Mary's Librarian

Whether you're an avid reader, or need something to read for English class, your school library learning commons has resources to help you find the right book.

Online Catalogue

The online catalogue is a helpful tool to see what's available in the library collection, but did you know it also has features to help with book recommendations?


1. Visit the school library website: <https://vlcguides.wcdsb.ca/stmary>
2. Use the "Search SMHS/KPL Catalogue" search box on the home page to look up an author or book you've enjoyed in the past.
3. Click on the title of the book to open the full information for that book.
4. Scroll to the bottom of the page to the heading "Novelist Results." The library catalogue pulls suggestions for similar books and series from the Novelist database. You can also choose story elements for that book (appeal, character, genre, theme, etc.) related to that book to help find similar books.

Search SMHS/KPL Catalogue

Novelist Results

Read also:

Similar Titles



Similar Authors

- Jason Reynolds
- Elizabeth Acevedo
- Shirley Toler
- Nia Nove
- Coe Booth
- Tyler Stratus
- Paula Jeanne Chase
- Janez
- Christina Ramoneda Reed

Concrete Rose is Novelist

Story elements

Mix and match to explore similar stories:

Appeal: Character-driven Dystopian

Character: Complex

Genre: African American fiction Coming of age stories First person narratives Realistic fiction

Library Displays



If you enjoy visual inspiration to find your next read, come into the library and see the diverse range of book displays curated by library staff based on themes, authors, awareness months, and more.

Some displays are for books newly added to the library, which are indicated by a round orange "new" sticker on the cover. The new adult fiction/nonfiction display is by the front service desk, junior chapter books at the start of the junior fiction shelves, and young adult fiction can be found on top of the shelves for the young adult collection.

Your School Librarian

Ms. VanderHeide, your school librarian, is available for reading suggestions that fit your interests and reading level. Visit me in my library office or email me at christine.vanderheide@wcdsb.ca.

Happy reading!

Dates to Remember



February 20

Family Day

February 21

Shrove Tuesday

February 22

Ash Wednesday

March 1

2023-2024 Course Selections
due in my Blueprint

March 6/7

Graduation Photos

Mar 8

Dress Down Day

Mar 12

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 13-17

March Break



March 17

St. Patrick's Day



March 20-31

Graduation Photos

March 22

Crossing Guards Day

March 28

Report Card Distribution

March 29

Spring Coffee House

March 31

PA Day

April 5

Parent/Student/Teacher
Conferences

April 6

Holy Thursday



April 7

Good Friday—no classes

April 9

Easter Sunday

April 10

Easter Monday—no classes

April 12

Dress Down Day

April 20

Semester 2—2nd Half Civics/
Careers

April 21

PA Day

April 26

Administrative Assistants Day

April 28

SAC Election Day

May 1-5

Catholic Education Week
Administrators Day

May 4

Report Card Distribution

May 17

Dress Down Day

May 22

Victoria Day—no classes

*Check the school calendar on St.
Mary's website for changes and
updates!*

