

June 2023
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CLASS OF 2023



**Congratulations to our
2023 graduates! Wishing
you the best of luck in all
your future endeavors!**





MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

To our St. Mary's Students and Families:

As we head into the summer months, we want to acknowledge another incredible academic year! Our deepest gratitude and appreciation to each one of you. It has been a year filled with hard work, growth, and memorable events, and we are so proud of the collective achievements we have made.

To our exceptional students, we are immensely proud of your hard work and determination throughout the year. You have shown resilience in the face of challenges and have consistently demonstrated your thirst for knowledge and personal growth. Your enthusiasm for learning and your contributions to our school community are incredible. Each one of you has brought a unique spark to our hallways and classrooms, making our school a vibrant and inspiring place to be. Your kindness and compassion shines in all that you do.

We acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our remarkable staff members. Your tireless efforts and unwavering passion have truly made a difference in the lives of our students. From your innovative teaching methods to your endless support and guidance, you have played a pivotal role in shaping the future of our students. Thank you for going above and beyond to inspire and challenge them to reach their full potential

Our heartfelt thanks to the parents, guardians and the wider community for your support this school year. Your trust in us and your collaboration have been vital in creating a nurturing environment where our students can thrive and flourish.

This school year, we have been privileged to witness a multitude of incredible events and achievements including school dances, school-wide barbecue, academic awards night, grade 8 parent night, SAC elections, Model UN, outdoor retreats and field trips, coffee house, Sponge Bob the Musical, Summer Bop, athletic and art events, intramurals, liturgies, and our annual Relay for Life event which raised over \$60,000 in support of the Canadian Cancer Society with participants from St. Mary's and our Family of Schools!

To the Class of 2023 – we are so proud of you and your accomplishments! This is a time to rejoice with friends, reflect on the lessons you have learned, the relationships you have built and the growth you have experienced. Take a moment to reflect and share your gratitude with the people who helped you achieve success. Remember to Be Bold, Be Courageous, Be you and continue to live the St. Mary's motto: "Rooted in faith, learning in love, dedicated to excellence".



MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

We experienced a significant loss in our community this year. Our staff and students will always remember Michael Lewis, grade eleven student at St. Mary's who we tragically lost this year. Michael will be fondly remembered for his kind and caring heart, love of music and inventive, inquisitive nature.

For our returning students, please stay connected by visiting our school and board websites. September brings a new beginning, and we look forward to continuing to grow as a community of inclusivity and aspire to bring hope, love and a sense of belonging to all our students and families in the coming year.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year, ready to embark on a new chapter filled with possibilities and opportunities. Together, we will continue to build a community that values excellence, empathy, and inclusivity.

Wishing you all a safe, restful and joyous summer break!

Sincerely,

The St. Mary's Administration Team:

Michael Ambeau, Delmar Borba, Kevin Hinsperger, Deanna Wehrle, Luisa Vona

From the Deacon's Bench...



We are coming to the end of another year at St. Mary's High School. Endings allow us the opportunity to look back on what has been and to look ahead at what will come. This has been a year full of ups and downs. Through the many challenges and successes; joys and heart-breaks; surprises and disappointments our Eagle community has experienced; I feel we have banded together in a truly blessed manner.

We now look to the summer for a chance to rest and rejuvenate ourselves and to enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the work that all retiring staff members have done during their time here at St. Mary's and wish them all the best in the future. May their time here be one of pleasant memories.

Likewise, we welcome new staff who will join us for the Fall. May you feel welcomed in your new community.

I look forward to returning to St. Mary's in the Fall and to getting started with some of the new programs that we will be rolling out.

Have a safe, fun, and blessed summer break.

"May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face now,
May the rains fall soft upon your fields And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

- Irish Blessing Prayer

Blessings,

Deacon Ed



From the Guidance Wing

TIMETABLES & FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Student timetables for 2023-2024 will be made available to students through the Aspen Student Portal and to parents/guardians through the Aspen Family/Parent Portal in late August. Students and families will be notified of the publication of schedules to the Aspen portals through School Messenger and Newswire.

Parents/Guardians - Please ensure you have registered for the Aspen Family/Parent Portal and notify the school of any changes to your personal email address or primary phone number during the summer by emailing: steph.groh@wcdsb.ca

More information will be communicated to families through School Messenger/Newswire regarding the schedule for September 5th. Please follow our website stmary.wcdsb.ca for important updates.

Procedures for course changes will be communicated to students in September. Emergency course changes will be prioritized in the first week of school.

Students Not returning

If your child is registered for September but has decided not to return, or to attend another high school, please contact the guidance department a.s.a.p. at **519-745-6891 ext. 5632**.

Community Service

Students are encouraged to complete their 40 hours during the summer, especially if they are going into grade 12. A Community Service manual including how to submit your hours is available on our St. Mary's website under the tabs: Student Supports—Guidance—Community Service.

Summer School Results

Summer school marks will be sent to St. Mary's at the end of August and recorded in Aspen.

OUAC and OCAS.

Gr 12's – Final marks have already been uploaded to OUAC and OCAS. Students who are going to college or university in September should check to make sure their marks have been uploaded correctly, and can email their guidance counsellor if they have any questions.

Guidance Help over the Summer Months

There will be a guidance counsellor available throughout the summer months, who can assist with any queries. Please email:

SMHguidance@wcdsb.ca if you need assistance.

If you have any other general questions over the summer, please call Mrs. Stephanie Groh at **519-745- 6891 Ex. 5632**.

Sora Sweet Reads – eBooks with Unlimited Availability

Sweet Reads, Sora's annual reading program, is back! Until August 28, a selection of free and simultaneous-use juvenile, young adult, and adult eBooks, and select audiobooks, are available to enjoy all summer long.

- Elementary and middle School books are suitable for Essential and English Language Learners.
- Also includes Teaching Resources for [Elementary](#), [Middle](#), and [High School](#) reading levels.

To view which titles are available for each level, please visit the [Sora Sweet Reads website](#).



Chromebook Returns

Graduating Grade 12 students and Gr. 9-12 students not returning to St. Mary's next school year who were loaned a WCDSB Chromebook are to return their device and its charging cord to the Main Office between **Monday, June 19 and Tuesday, June 27**. This does not include SEA devices issued by the Assistive Technology Office.



- Students returning to St. Mary's for the 2023- 2024 school year can keep their assigned Chromebook over the summer.
- **If you are graduating but are taking a summer course, please email Ms. VanderHeide (Christine.vanderheide@wcdsb.ca) to notify her of this and to arrange how to return the device.**
- If your school-assigned Chromebook is damaged or not working, please bring it Ms. VanderHeide's office in the library to have your device sent for repair as soon as possible.

Final Evaluations take place Thursday June 22 to Wednesday June 28. Please see the [school website](#) for full details.



What an incredible year we have had in the SMH Music Department. We ended with 2 wonderful events. Our Graduation Recital and Summer Bop Concert.

The Graduation Recital was held in the chapel this year on May 31st for senior music students and their close family and friends. It was an excellent display of talent across the department featuring both instrumental and vocal students. Highlights included the senior instrumental class performance of Soul Bossa Nova and She Used to be Mine performed by the senior vocal class.

The second event was our Summer Bop Concert! The concert featured grade 9-12 students in our band, guitar and vocal music programs at SMH. A variety of songs and genres from Stand By Me, Feelin' Good, Zombie to a Rockin' Gold vocal medley were heard throughout Alumni Hall. Attendance was wonderful and we look forward to sharing music with you all again soon.

These events were a huge success and thank you goes out to Mr. Devine, Mr. Lacalamita and Mrs. Turman for all their hard work with the students.





Community Living

Cheese4Change Competition



Students in Community Living came up with a healthy, affordable recipe that produced as little waste as possible. They created a video of them preparing their recipe and submitted it to the Cheese4Change competition by Tres Stelle Cheese company.

MEET THE TEAM:



THE FINISHED PRODUCT: CAPRESE SALAD

Submission video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PI4PRIfd_F04TOKvsvRKpZROP5ryL1k_/view

Contest Details:

<https://www.trestelle.ca/english/cheese4change/>



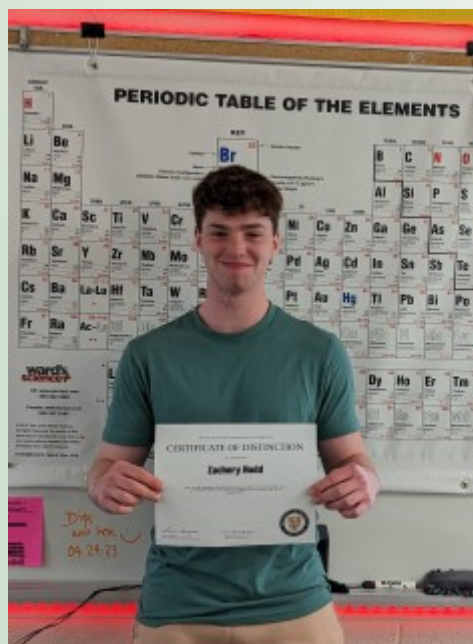
University of Waterloo

Chemistry Contest

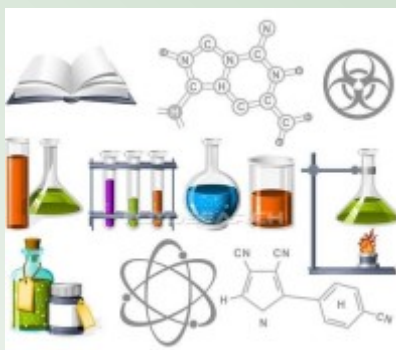
**Congratulations to the winners of the
UW Chemistry Contest:
Chem 13 Exam 1st**



Olamide Olajide



Zachary Hodd



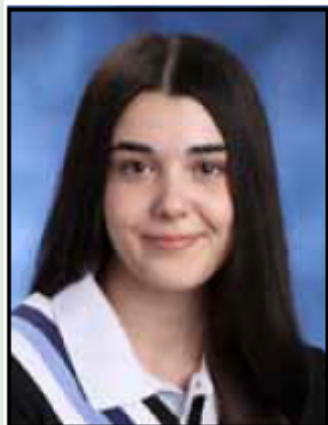


St. Mary's Standout Students of the Year

Showcased in the June 24th edition of The Record



ST. MARY'S



Alexis Pantelides

Alexis has an incredible work ethic and positive attitude. She is very involved at the school in several clubs and has extensive involvement in the community through her church and at the hospital. Her peers have benefited from her kindness, patience, empathy and gentle demeanor. Alexis is an honour roll student and has earned a Specialist High Skills Major certificate. St. Mary's has a school maxim of 'Kindness Matters' and Alexis takes that to heart in and out of the classroom. Alexis has accepted an offer to study health sciences at the University of Waterloo.

Parents: Lisa and Andrew Pantelides



Olamide Olajide

Olamide excels in academics, community involvement, extracurriculars including Mental Health Club, Black Matters Club, Safe School Ambassadors and Model UN and volunteers at UW's Changemaker Labs, BEP WR, and Invitation to Belonging. Her greatest contributions have been in supporting newcomers and her work towards promoting diversity and inclusion in various spaces. Olamide has earned a full scholarship to the University of Toronto Mississauga STEM Scholars Program.

Parents: Abiodun and Olayiwola Olajide



ST. MARY'S



Adam Suljak

Adam shines in his academic excellence, leadership and through his involvement that demonstrates diverse interests and always supporting his peers. Adam showcases his talents through Senior Band and as a dedicated athlete in Cross-Country and Track & Field. He was recognized as a D8 Academic All Star and Computer Program, English, and Physics award winner at graduation. Attending McMaster for engineering, Adam is poised for a bright future in pursuing his passions.

Parents: Ninetta Scolieri and John Suljak



Paige Spehar

Determined, self-motivated, caring and conscientious are some of the phenomenal traits that Paige exemplifies as SAC co-president. She excels in all that she does including Swim Team, Intramurals, Link Crew, Relay for Life and is a D8 Academic All Star. Paige consistently works to make the St. Mary's Community a better place for everyone even when faced with adversity. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and she has a positive influence on her peers. Next stop, U of Guelph!

Parents: Alison and Gregory Spehar



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL COMMUNITY RAISES OVER \$66,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY!

Our fifth annual Relay for Life event was a huge success! Over eight weeks, our students and staff worked hard to raise funds in support of Relay for Life. At Relay 2023, St. Mary's raised an incredible **\$66,000** that will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society and we are so proud of our school community! On May 26th, we came together to honour our cancer survivors, remember those we have lost, to fight back against this disease, and to create hope for the future.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, volunteers, donors, and participants - without you, this event would not have been possible! We can't wait to see you at Relay 2024!!

Way to go, Eagles!



the Eagle's View



SpongeBob the Musical

From April 27th to 29th, Alumni Hall was transformed into the underwater world of Bikini Bottom and SpongeBob and the gang transported us to their wacky and wonderful world as St. Mary's students and staff brought Nickelodeon's The SpongeBob Musical to life. The musical was brought to the stage after months of hard work and dedication by many people and we would like to take this opportunity to thank those who made this production such a success.

To our cast and crew, we are very proud of the hard work you have put in and have loved watching you learn and grow in this adventure. To our student volunteers who helped with hair, makeup and ushering, thank you for the dedication you showed in helping the shows run well. The production would not have been possible without our directors, Mr. Zach Nunes and Ms. Diana Knoll, who shared their vision and passion for theatre with us to bring this fun adventure to the stage, and our musical directors, Ms. Alicia Turman and Mr. David Lacalamita, for their musical talents and vocal training in bringing the songs to life. The stage has never looked so beautiful and the set pieces so perfect; for that we are grateful to Ms. Jeannie McCarroll and her art students for their work in designing, creating and assembling our sets, and to Mr. Matt Acheson, Mr. Mark Cameron and Mr. David Scanlan for their help in set construction. For lighting and sound design we are once again thankful for the expertise of Mr. Zach Nunes and Mr. David Lacalamita. We appreciate Ms. Marzena Wardzala for her help in costuming and front of house support, and Ms. Katherine Engelhardt for her help in designing the tickets, posters and program. To the St. Mary's Administration, Custodial and Office Staff, thank you for the support in all aspects of the production. Finally, with over 900 tickets sold, thank you to our audience for the wonderful support you showed in coming to see our cast and crew shine, and for always being there to cheer us on!

Amy Massicotte Bird - Producer



the Eagle's View



SpongeBob the Musical



the Eagle's View



SpongeBob the Musical



the Eagle's View



SpongeBob the Musical



the Eagle's View



Student Activities Council



Check out what SAC has been up to lately!



END OF SPRING

← SMH SPIRIT WEEK →

From May 15 to May 19, Eagles muster up all their school spirit while celebrating St. Mary's Spirit Week. There were raffles and prizes, games, dress down days and a barbeque from hospitality. It couldn't have been celebrated in a better way!



← HOSPITALITY BBQ →

The hospitality class was kind enough to set up a BBQ for St. Mary's during spirit week. Lines wrapped the edge of the football field as volunteers were hard at work serving a hearty barbeque meal. Everyone was able to enjoy a nice lunch on a hot Spring day!

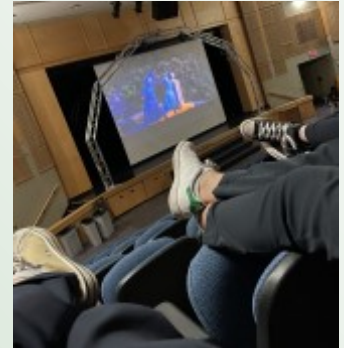




Student Activities Council

← MENTAL HEALTH WEEK →

In promotion and awareness for mental health during mental health week, we put together daily activities during the first week of May for students to relieve any stress they have. This included adult colouring, making fidgets, yoga, and movie nights!



← GRADUATION BREAKFAST →

SAC puts on an end of the year breakfast for all the seniors graduating. Games and music were played, delicious food was served, and smiles and laughs were seen and heard!



Student Activities Council

← ST. MARY'S FINAL ASSEMBLY →

To finish off a great school year, SAC puts together the last assembly of the year. We hear one last time from a student and teacher band, play a few crowd games, watch student made work from a film festival, and meet our new student trustee and co-presidents! Say hello to Eva, Cornelia and Bryanna!



← SAC BBQ →

SAC pulls off one last event and has another barbeque to reward students of their hard work this year. After ten months of endless strength and bravery, Eagles have made their way to the end of the school year. Students enjoyed a hotdog or hamburger with chips, and a drink!



← PRIDE MONTH →

In celebration of Pride Month, SAC puts on an event for students to walk by, read and be filled with courage. A booth was set up beside the cafeteria where you can write words of encouragement on sticky notes and put it on the window. This could be for those a part of the community who are out, who are closeted, those facing discrimination, or those who just need nice words to hear!





Dates To Remember



June 29

Last Day of School

August 7

Civic Holiday

June 30

Summer Break Begins

September 4

Labour Day

July 1

Canada Day

September 5

First Day of School

July 13

Report Card Mailout

Full Uniform

Have a wonderful, safe summer!

We look forward to seeing you in September!!



More info to come:

Keep checking the St. Mary's website for new information regarding the 2023-2024 school year!

the Eagle's View