

November 2023 Volume 16 Number 1

Features

P. 2-3	Message from Admin.
P. 4	Deacon's Bench
P. 5-9	Guidance
P. 10	30 Years of UCEP!
P. 11	Stitching Club
P. 12	DECA
P. 13-16	SAC
P. 17	School Happenings
D 10	Athletics Corner



P. 19 Yearbook

P. 20 Dates to Remember

Academic Awards Night

Family, friends and staff gathered to celebrate students who during the previous school year:

- earned the highest mark in their class for each subject
- were in the top five percent of their grade level, or
- were in the top 10 percent of their grade level.

We celebrated the achievements of our diverse group of learners. This event provided an opportunity to recognize students who live our mission statement.

Rooted in Faith 'Learning in Love 'Dedicated to Excellence.





Thank you to all family and friends who attended, and to the staff who helped organize this celebration.



MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

To our St. Mary's Students and Families:

The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start as we reach midway through our first semester. Students and staff have engaged in the learning, building connections with one another and we are growing together as a community where we value inclusivity, aspire to bring hope, love, and a sense of belonging for all our students and families. The enthusiasm and energy that comes with the start of a new school year is contagious and we share in that excitement with you. Our goal is to inspire a love for learning, curiosity, and a sense of accomplishment for every student.

This year is the second year of our three-year WCDSB Pastoral Plan. It is the year of "Strengthen". "I can do all things through the one who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) We are People of God, listening and responding, strengthened to share the Gospel. In the St. Mary's community, students are at the center of our work who we work alongside to nurture relationships to support in all their achievements. We find strength and hope in our community that is "Rooted in Faith, Learning in Love, Dedicated to Excellence."

This school year began with great enthusiasm and a sense of unity during the opening mass and assembly. Both, were beautiful ways to gather as a community and set the tone for the year. Alongside celebrants Father Vivek Trindade from St. Anthony Daniel Church and Father Toby Collins from St. Mary Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, we gathered in faith.

Our grade nine students were also welcomed into the school year with a week of transition activities culminating the week with a BBQ where students and staff had a chance to connect and enjoy delicious food prepared by our hospitality department. We extend a warm welcome to our newest Eagles who have joined our school community this year. Your presence enriches our school!

This year has already brought many celebrations, starting with our Academic Awards night on October 11th where we celebrated outstanding achievements of our students. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication.

The month of November brings the end of our Fall season of sports where our student-athletes and coaches found many successes. November $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ also welcomed the start of the Winter Sport season. We encourage our students to get involved in the school outside the classroom and hope that there is a sport or club that interests them.

On November 18th, several of our staff and students will be participating in the Lion's Club Christmas parade, something we hope will become a cherished tradition in our community. Again, this year, we will gather on December 1st for our Community Christmas dinner. It is an occasion for sharing and building lasting connections. We welcome staff, students, families, and community members who can join us for a wonderful pasta dinner prepared by our hospitality teachers and students. We are grateful for the team here at St. Mary's for organizing this incredible event!





MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

.....continued

We also welcome our Grade 8 students and families on November 30th for our Grade 8 Student/Parent night. This evening we will welcome the incoming class to visit the school and connect with current students and staff to learn about the course offerings and all the amazing opportunities our school has to offer.

This year, we continue to renew our commitment to fostering an environment that promotes academic achievement and personal and social development. We believe in the unique potential of each child and are devoted to creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive atmosphere where they can thrive.

As partners in your child's education, we encourage open communication and collaboration between home and school. We value your insights, questions, and involvement in your child's learning journey. We pray that this school year brings a joy of learning both in and out of the classroom, personal growth, and a shared sense of purpose. Together, we can create a strong foundation for success.

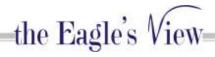
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to connect with us at any time. Together we will continue to make St. Mary's a place where students can learn, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your child. We look forward to a year filled with growth, achievement, and memorable moments.

Sincerely,

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





From the Deacon's Bench...







Greetings Eagle Community,

As we make our way through the month of November we take a moment and look back on the busy, busy month it has been.

The Grade 10 Retreats are almost completed for this semester with all eight classes having spent the day at Hidden Acres. The group had great weather and spent their day sharing in the activities.

We also had our annual Remembrance Day Service as part of our Morning Announcements on Nov. 10th.

We hosted all 13 of our family of schools for the morning of the Spiritual Development Day for a Speaker and then the celebration of Holy Mass. Fr. Vivek from St. Anthony Daniel Parish was our Celebrant and did his usual, amazing job. Our Music Ministers also ROCKED THE HOUSE!!! Our Chefs also did an amazing job providing snacks for the almost 1000 people in attendance!! Way to go Eagles. At lunchtime, when our Family of Schools returned to their own sites, we followed up with a number of workshops and sessions that people were free to attend. Well done all!

We are looking ahead to the start of the Advent Season. We will have the lighting of the first candle on the Advent Wreath during an assembly in the Chapel. The wreath will be placed in the upper forum.

It is our hope that we will host several Priests in the coming weeks as we offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation for students and staff as part of our Advent observance.

Pray that our school as well as our homes & hearts will be ready to welcome the Christ child at Christmas. May His coming be a source of peace and joy in our lives.

May God bless you with a Happy Advent and a Merry Christmas.

Deacon Ed







Counsellors by Alpha

Mr. Cameron Students with last names A-Bo + Active and Community Living

(ext. 5638)

Mr. Taranto Students with last names Br-F (ext. 5635)

Ms. Arruda Students with last names G-K (ext. 5634)

Ms. Galloway Students with last names L-O (ext. 5636)

Ms. Coates Students with last names P-Sh and International program (ext. 5637)

Ms. Arkell Students with last names Si-Z (ext. 5639)

Youth Care Workers Available to students through referrals from Guidance, Administration, or

Program Support

Ms. Agundmadu (A-D) Ms. MacGregor (E-K) Ms. Bennett (L-Q) Ms. Elliot (R-Z)

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 1st and Grade 9 students across the country participated.
- ♦ **Grade 9 Presentations** Guidance counsellors held large group presentations for 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 presented to Grade 12 classes about postsecondary options and to answer any questions. The presentation can be accessed on the school website.
- ♦ **Scholarship Presentation -** took place September 28th and can be viewed on the school website . See the Guidance D2L for upcoming scholarship opportunities.
- ♦ College and University Liaison Visits have commenced late-September and wrapped up late-November. Students are welcome to contact the institution of their choice to book a tour.
- Guidance hosted lunch time drop-in sessions early November for students who needed some help applying to post-secondary and to answer any questions.

All Grades

Ongoing meetings with students and parents.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Grade 8

- ♦ Grade 8 Information Night is taking place on Thursday November 30th from 6:30-8:30pm.
- **Grade 8 Visits** We will be welcoming our feeder schools to the building over the next couple of months for a tour and fun activities preparing students for their transition to high school.
- Please visit our Future Eagles tab on the school website. There is a wealth of information including FAQs, a virtual tour and course selection information.





....continued

Course Selections for 2024-2025

- Presentations and information for all grades will start in December through February.
- Course selections for the 2024-2025 school year are due the end of February for all grades.
- ♦ All students are encouraged to enter their 2024-2025 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 26 (see the "Everything
 you Need to Know about Community Service Hours" section that follows.
- 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, 2024 for equal consideration. Apply at www.ontariocolleges.ca. Apply early
 to avoid disappointment.
- University applications are due January 15, 2024 for equal consideration. Apply at https://www.ouac.on.ca New this
 year, students will not receive a pin code and will create an account instead. Applying before Christmas is strongly
 encouraged.

All Students

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Please see "Everything you Need to Know About Community Service Hours" on next page.

COMMUNICATION

- Eagle Vision—updated daily
- Guidance Announcements are posted on the Guidance D2L page.

ELEARN CREDITS

♦ Two e-learning credits are a graduation requirement. Students interested in opting out of this requirement may do so by completing this form: https://lf.wcdsb.ca/Forms/PS002F

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 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 Counsellors may reach out to students.





....continued

Everything you need to know about community service hours

- 40 community service hours are a graduation requirement to achieve the OSSD
- Students may begin accumulating hours on the first day of July after they leave Grade 8.
- Community service hours are due by the end of April in your graduating year.
- To submit your community service hours, complete this link:https://lf.wcdsb.ca/Forms/APO015-01F
- ♦ If you are unsure if an activity will qualify, please check with your Guidance counsellor.
- Volunteer hours are non-paid and out of class time, and not part of a course requirement.
- www.volunteerwr.ca is a great place to look for volunteer opportunities

Examples of Eligible Activities

- ◆ Fundraising for Non-Profit Organizations: canvassing, walk-a-thons, celebrity games, gift wrapping, gala events, flower sales
- Sports/Recreation: coaching, Special Olympics, leisure buddy, summer games, pool assistant
- ♦ Community Events: winter carnival, summer fair, seasonal events
- ◆ Environmental Projects: community clean-up, flower/tree planting, recycling program
- ♦ Senior's Residence: serving snacks, helping with crafts, visiting, reading
- ♦ Committees: advisory board, neighborhood associations, regional associations, student trustee
- ♦ Community Projects: food banks, support services for seniors or the house bound, seasonal events
- Religious Activities: babysitting or assisting with children's programs during liturgy, assisting with Eucharistic ministries, lector, choir, alter serving, visiting elderly or sick parishioners, missionary work
- Clubs and Youth Organizations: volunteering activities organized by these groups, membership alone in not eligible
- Children/Youth: drop-in centers, breakfast programs, after school programs, March break programs, leaders in training, summer playgrounds and camps, child care centers
- Office/Clerical for a non-profit organization: reception, computer work, mailings, newsletters, pamphlet delivery
- Animals: animal care, horse back riding program
- Arts/Culture: galleries, playing music, library, museums and heritage sites
- ♦ Activities for Individuals Requiring Assistance: home maintenance for needy seniors (refer to ineligible activities list), shopping for shut-ins, recreational activities designed for those with special needs, babysitting
- Organizing and assisting with school events: Grade 9 welcome, school arts show, sports events, drama festival, fundraiser, food drive, science fair, guide for Parent's night

Examples of Ineligible activities

- Is a requirement of a class or course in which the student is enrolled (e.g., Cooperative Education, Job Shadowing, Work Experience, or any portion of a course).
- ♦ Takes place during the time allotted for the instructional program on a school day. However, an activity that takes place during a student's lunch break or "spare" period is permissible.
- ♦ Takes place in a logging or mining environment, if the student is under sixteen years of age.
- Takes place in a factory, if the student is under fifteen years of age.
- ♦ Takes place in a workplace other than a factory, if the student is under fourteen years of age and is not accompanied by an adult.
- Would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace.
- Involves the operation of a vehicle, power tools, or scaffolding.
- Involves the administration of any type or form of medication or medical procedure to other persons.
- Involves handling of substances classed as "designated substances" under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Requires the knowledge of a tradesperson whose trade is regulated by the provincial government.
- Involves banking or the handling of securities, or the handling of jewelry, works of art, antiques, or other valuables.
- Consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e., daily chores) or personal recreational activities.
- Involves the activities for a court-ordered program (e.g., community service program for young offenders, probationary program).
- Involves simple membership in a school or community club.
- Is part of a Community Service Day during regular scheduled class time.

Information taken from https://el.wcdsb.ca/volunteer/





....continued

Graduation Coach for Black Students

— Jody Brown —

The Graduation Coach Program's purpose is to provide comprehensive, culturally responsive support to Black students, aiming to improve their well-being, academic achievements, and drive systemic change. He acts as a mentor and advisor, collaborating with school-based staff and the broader community to address individual and systemic barriers. This includes facilitating access to academic support and community resources while fostering a supportive environment.

The Graduation Coach can help students by:

- engaging with them to affirm their identities and cultures through Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy
- acting as a mentor, advisor and advocate for them with their educators, other school staff and families
- collaborating with school staff, their caregivers/families, and community members to support their learning
- working with the Core Team and school staff to create a long-term vision/plan for the students
- identifying and addressing individual and systemic barriers to engagement, learning and well-being
- facilitating access and referrals to academic support and community resources to provide an integrated support system for students.



Students can self-refer if they want to connect with Jody. See the St. Mary's website for further details and access to the consent form.



the Eagle's View

BUILD YOUR FUTURE FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

#DREAMBIGWATERLOO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 2023





WATERLOO







BINGEMANS 425 BINGEMANS CENTRE DR

KITCHENER, ONTARIO

N2B 3X7

5 PM - 8 PM



PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DIVERSE WOMEN

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

MERCHANDISE & PHOTO BOOTH

PRIZES & SWAG



TICKETS ARE LIMITED TO TWO PER PERSON. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

SPARKPOWER









































30 Years of UCEP!

Did you know that there are currently 14 students from St. Mary's high school who are spending their entire first semester on campus at the University of Waterloo? These students are joined by students from the other four Catholic High Schools in Waterloo region in a one-of-a-kind program called UCEP.

UCEP stands for the "University Cooperative Education Program" and is an opportunity for full time high school students to be registered as part-time University students! UCEP students are enrolled in PSYCH 101 or ECON 101 at the University of Waterloo while still completing high school credits taught by WCDSB teachers. In addition to these courses, each student earns two Coop credits by working alongside university faculty or staff.

It is through Coop where students really get a unique opportunity to learn about a program of study offered at university. For example, Maddox Mendoza is working in a Health Science & Kinesiology lab with a clinical research program helping to test the effects of exercise and nutrition strategies to help prevent type 2 diabetes. Another St. Mary's student, Ethan Kiers, is completing his Coop in a Nanotechnology lab where he is gaining experience with a laser cutter and researching Biosensors. UCEP students can also complete their Coop hours off UW campus. Isabella Alma is completing her placement at the Balsillie School of International Affairs where she is gaining valuable experience researching the Human Rights Council and Ashley Rye is working at the Wilfrid Laurier campus alongside Dr. Ebrahim Mazaheri to research online consumer behaviour and social media marketing.

UCEP is a program that is available for Grade 12 students who have a strong academic average and have demonstrated strong work ethic. Planning to be part of UCEP can begin as early as Grade 10. Consider joining us Tuesday February 13th at St. Mary's high school for an information session – both parents and students are welcome to attend. Additionally, UCEP staff will be inviting current Grade 10 students to an information session in Alumni Hall on Friday December 8th during period 1.

Get more information about UCEP by scanning this QR code or visiting our website: https://el.wcdsb.ca/programs/ucep/





STITCHING



This year's Stitching Club has begun with much success and many new members! Our fearless stitching leaders Ms. Alicia Turman and Ms. Kristen Renda had been doing their best to teach us all the basics. Many of us are realizing just how much patience is required. Our charity project for the fall of stitching hats and searfs for those in our community has started. We currently have a total of 8 hats and 3 scarfs. We are hoping to surpass our 15 item record from our inaugural year. We are truly enjoying the new friendships and skills we are learning.

Stitching Club will always happily accept donations of yarn.







During the months of September to November, the St Mary's DECA Club has been busy preparing for their Regionals competition. This included many mock role-plays, multiple choice test studying, and committing performance indicators to memory. The Regionals competition includes 2 components: a 100-question multiple choice test and a role-play. The writing of the multiple-choice test occurred during the last week of October. On November 12 the students took part in the Regionals role-play competition at Conestoga College. St Mary's students competed against over 1500 other southwestern Ontario DECA members. We are very proud of the professionalism and commitment that our St Mary's DECA students put towards the Regionals competition.



the Eagle's View



Check out some of the events that SAC has been up to lately!



BEGINNING OF FALL



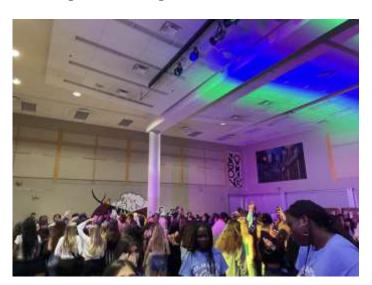
← GRADE 9 BBQ →



The Grade 9 BBQ took place on September 22nd. It was run by the Student Activity Council and the lovely hospitality class. It was a nice sunny day for a BBQ and it's safe to say that our hardworking volunteers and the Grade nines had a wonderful time!

← GRADE 9 DANCE →

The Grade nine dance took place on September 22nd under the sea. There were plenty of fish and kelp along with all of the dancing and bonding happening among the new grade nines!









Check out some of the events that SAC has been up to lately!

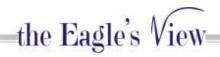
\leftarrow OPENING ASSEMBLY \rightarrow

Our opening assembly was a smashing success among students and we've never been so spirited before. Students and teachers both participated in some fun games for entertainment and we kicked off our grade wars. SAC worked hard to create engaging content for our students like club interviews, tik toks, a wired autocomplete interview and our first preview of ENN! The dance team had their first performance of the year and our SAC Tech-Crew did an awesome job.



\leftarrow ACADEMIC AWARDS NIGHT \rightarrow

On October 11th we acknowledged all of our academic achievements from the previous school year. Although there were some minor setbacks like a false fire alarm, we are so proud of our Eagles!





Check out some of the events that SAC has been up to lately!

\leftarrow SENIOR SUNRISE \rightarrow



Senior Sunrise took place on St.Mary's Soccer field on October 5th. Grade 12 students got up bright and early to participate in our very first

Senior Sunrise.
The turnout was greater than we could have ever imagined. Our



graduating class shared laughter, memories and some really delicious baked goods while watching the sunrise.

\leftarrow CAMP KINTAIL \rightarrow

From October 12 - 13 the Student Activity Council visited camp Kintail where they learned team building exercises, communication skills and how to make really good hot cocoa! The students participated in high ropes, low ropes, activity planning, capture the flag, slingshotting



and running on the beach. They even made some really creative nature names.





Check out some of the events that SAC has been up to lately!

\leftarrow SPOOKY MOVIE NIGHT \rightarrow

On October 25th the healthy Active Schools group ran their first movie night of the year. We raised lots of money and collected lots of canned food items to be donated to charity. The night featured Coraline and some special movie snacks which were thoroughly enjoyed.

\leftarrow OSLC \rightarrow

At the beginning of the month, some of our incredible SAC leaders went to a leadership conference in Niagara falls called OSLC. There were so many cheer offs, plenty of school spirit and we got to meet so many different schools all across Ontario! There we learned all about what it means to be a good leader with special conferences and presentations. There was also an amazing semi formal and spirit competitions. We came decked out in blue, GO EAGLES!









School Happenings



RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS CLUB



On November 18th the Random Act of Kindness Club took part in the KW Santa Claus parade.

SNOWS FOR GRUB

The grade 9/10/11 transportation classes installed snow tires in exchange for donations to our local food bank.

41 vehicles had their snows installed in exchange for 134 lbs of food items which equates to 192 meals.

Thank you for your donations.

Technology Dept

THE MATH DEPARTMENT



Students from Mr. Scholtz's MHF4UI class were disco-ing on Polynomial Function end behaviours!

Students from left to right: Caleb R, Andrew S, Triet H, Diego V





Athletics Corner



On Monday October 23 at Schlegel Park in Kitchener, the St. Mary's junior soccer team claimed their tenth District 8 championship in the last ten seasons.

St. Mary's were in tough against St. Benedict's as they split their head to head regular season meetings this year. The Saints won 3 - 1 on September 27, and the Eagles won 4 - 2 on October 16.

In the District 8 championship, St. Mary's controlled the pace of play for much of the match. They opened the scoring midway through the first half on a penalty kick from Dionis Jakupi. With the momentum in their favour, Jakupi scored again 10 seconds later to increase the lead to 2-0.

Later in the first half Christopher Curicheru scored, extending the lead to three.

In the second half St. Benedict pressed forward and eventually scored on a tough angle shot from Denzel Pierre.

Late in the game Jake Gouthro scored for St. Mary's to seal the 4 - 1 victory for the Eagles.

CONGRATULATIONS EAGLES!

the Eagle's View



ORDER YOUR 23-24
YEARBOOK TODAY!

PLACE YOUR ORDER AT:

wcdsb.schoolcashonline.com or scan here







Dates to Remember



November 22December 25February 1Report Card DistributionChristmas DayPA Day

November 29December 26February 2Full DisclosureBoxing DaySemester 2 Begins

November 30 January 17 February 8

Grade 8 Parent Night Evening Music Grad Recital New Student and Staff Photos

December 7 January 22 February 9

Community Christmas Dinner First Day for Semester 2 Last Day for Semester 2 Course Changes Course Changes

December 11-22
Grad Photos

January 22-24
Quiet Days

February 14
Ash Wednesday

December 13

Winter Music Concert

January 24

Dress Down Day

Valentine's Day

Report Card Distribution

December 20 February 19

Final Exams January 25-30

Family Day

Dress Down Day (see schedule below)

Final Exams Sandary 25-30

Family Day

December 21
Christmas Assembly

January 31
Credit Rescue

February 21

Dress Down Day

December 23-January 7 Semi-Formal February 23
Christmas Break Pink Shirt Day

wn Day 7 **23** I Day

Semester 1 Final Evaluation Schedule

Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
January 25	January 26	January 29	January 30	January 31
9:00 – 11:00	9:00 – 11:00	9:00 – 11:00	9:00 – 11:00	Assessment & Evaluation
Period 1 - 2-hour Final Evaluation Busses depart at 11:15 &11:25	Period 2 - 2-hour Final Evaluation Busses depart at 11:15 &11:25	Period 3/4 - 2-hour Final Evaluation Busses depart at 11:15 &11:25	Period 5 - 2-hour Final Evaluation Busses depart at 11:15 &11:25	Transportation to and from school not provided 12:00 – 3:00 pm
12:00 – 3:00 pm Credit Rescue If Required	12:00 – 3:00 pm Credit Rescue If Required	12:00 – 3:00 pm Credit Rescue If Required	12:00 – 3:00 pm Credit Rescue If Required	Credit Rescue If Required