



Rooted in Faith - Learning in Love - Dedicated to Excellence

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February 2024  
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# Getting Ready for Grad!!



class of  
**2024**

the Eagle's View



# MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

Hello, St. Mary's families –

February 2<sup>nd</sup> brought the start of semester 2 and we were thrilled to welcome our students back! The first week brought a great start as students had the opportunity to connect with their new teachers and settle into their schedules.

Prior to the semester start, students were able to celebrate at the semi-formal that was held on January 31<sup>st</sup> at St. George's Hall in Waterloo. Over 650 students enjoyed a great night and a wonderful evening with friends.

February is Black Heritage Month, and our Black Student Union is sharing information through daily announcements both at school and on our Instagram account. Please follow [@SMHSac](#) to see the significant contributions and influential Black leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and academics have on the world we live in today. As we embark on the start of Black History month, remember we remain committed to our equity statement: "We are Eagles who are accepting and understanding of all cultures, races, and differences. We understand that everyone has their story to be told and accept and listen to each one with respect and kindness. We will continue to grow and learn from one another to build a harmonious and loving community." We also celebrate Black History Month with a talent show on February 21<sup>st</sup> and hope that many students will join us for a great evening.

Parents and students are invited to continue accessing 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 do to support the social-emotional health and academic success of your children. We hope you and your family remain well and we wish all of our students a successful semester two.

Take care,

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

*the Eagle's View*

*the Eagle's View*



# MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

*.....continued*

Greetings Everyone!! I want to take a moment to introduce myself to the entire SMH community. I know many of you already know me from my time here in the History/Geography Department (2010-2018), and I am thrilled to return to a community that I hold dear to my heart. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Anne Masojc (Ma-soy-ch). I have been teaching for 20 years - starting at St. David in 2004.



The years of teaching in the early 2000s were difficult in terms of job security. After six years of teaching I was still the rookie teacher on staff. That earned me a redundancy notice and a ticket to St. Mary's. Initially, this move was terrifying. I was quite comfortable in the tight knit community of St. David. However, the move to St. Mary's ended up being one of the best moments in my career as those years were fundamental in developing me into the educator I am today.

During those eight years, I learned about innovative technologies for education, started coaching basketball, supported the Model UN Team, and became an integral part of this school community that exemplifies Jesus' message of love for all. In 2018, with a heavy heart but a hopeful spirit, I left SMH for a Program Head position at St. David's. I never took my St. Mary's parking pass off my car windshield with a prayer that one day I would return to this amazing school community. Turns out, this may have been a good luck charm!

Throughout the past six years at St. David, I have taken what I learned at St. Mary's about innovation, extracurricular activities, and positive relationships and embedded them in my practice. I have coached multiple school teams including Cross Country, Basketball, and the Model UN Team. I created the Culturally Responsive Pedagogy Team and was part of the first ever Student Equity and Engagement Committee that brings both staff and students together to ensure diverse voices and perspectives are valued in our instruction and daily school life.

On a personal note, I am the mother of two children who are actively involved in arts and athletics. My husband, Paul, is the Co-founder and VP of Operations of enVgo, a technology start up located in Waterloo. I am currently completing my Masters of Education at the University of Laurier and volunteer on my neighborhood social committee. I try to find time to recharge through running, reading, and beaching.

I am excited about beginning this next phase of my career back at St. Mary's. I am grateful to be returning to a school community that helped shape the foundations of my educational philosophy. I know there is no better place to learn and grow and am excited to experience all of these moments alongside each of you.

Looking forward to the semester ahead,

Anne Masojc  
Vice Principal

the Eagle's View

## From the Deacon's Bench...



Okay Eagles...take a deep breath...we can do this!! Ready or not...Semester 2 here we come!

We continue to thank God for the many blessings bestowed on us during the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of the 2023-24 school year. As we move forward there is much to celebrate and much for which we continue to be thankful.

In a very short time we will be having our Ash Wednesday Liturgy to begin the liturgical season of Lent. During Lent as part of "Morning Prayer & Announcements" we will pause to reflect on the season and how we are called to prayer, fasting, and alms giving. During Lent, we will also offer students and staff the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We continue to be blessed to have the support of many local Priests who have made St. Mary's a part of their regular ministry. Parish Priests and members of the Congregation of the Resurrection are also an integral part of the spiritual fabric of St. Mary's.

May the Lord Jesus be with you on your journey during the upcoming time of Lent.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Deacon Ed



## From the Deacon's Bench...

continued



Fr. Rapheal Ma, CR (left) and Fr. Toby Collins, CR (right) are pictured here at St. Mary's Church. Congratulations to "Fr. Raph" for his new appointment as Associate Pastor! They are happy to help out at St. Mary's High School wherever possible and both like to play sports and watch good movies. Oh, and they both enjoy all different types of food too!







## *From the Guidance Wing*

### COUNSELLORS BY ALPHA

Mr. Cameron	Students with last names A-Bo and AL/CL (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. 5627)
Ms. Arkell	Students with last names Si-Z (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 2024-2025**

Course Selection information can be found <https://stmary.wcdsb.ca/student-supports/guidance/academic-planning-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** between **February 14—February 28, 2024**. Course selection presentations were delivered earlier December 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 2024-2025.
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 D2L page. 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, 2024**, for equal consideration.

### **University Applicants:**

Applications were due **January 15, 2024**, 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 February 28, 2024**—Students choose summer school courses in myBlueprint under the 'Summer' code.

**After February 28, 2024**—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](http://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 December, 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:** continue to check the guidance D2L.



## *From the Guidance Wing*

### **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](http://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, altar serving, visiting elderly or sick parishioners, missionary work
- ◆ **Clubs and Youth Organizations:** volunteering activities organized by these groups, membership alone is 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





## *From the Guidance Wing*

### **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/>



## ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

### 2024 CONVOCATION INFORMATION

**Convocation** is a ceremony to celebrate the class of 2024 at the end of their 4<sup>th</sup> year of high school (*the group of students who started grade 9 in 2020*). You do not have to complete all graduation requirements to participate in convocation. You can only attend convocation once, typically during your 4<sup>th</sup> year, unless advised differently by your guidance counsellor.

#### Convocation Information:

**Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Centre in the Square**  
**7pm**

#### Convocation Fees

<b>Fees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Ceremony – \$65</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• includes souvenir keepsake gown, cap with year tassel &amp; v-stole</li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ <b>Breakfast &amp; Liturgy – \$10</b></li> <li>♦ <b>Souvenir Gown, Cap with year tassel &amp; V-Stole ONLY - \$20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for those who are not attending the ceremony but want the souvenir</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Pay online only through School Cash Online – link on St. Mary's website  (<a href="http://stmary.wcdsb.ca">http://stmary.wcdsb.ca</a>) <b>Payment Dates: February 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup></b></p>
<b>Ticket Allocations</b>	<p><b>Ticket Allocations</b>  Ticket purchases can be made through the Centre in the Square <b>April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>. Each student will be allocated 3 tickets - at \$9 per ticket with a box office administration fee. After May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the remaining tickets will be available for purchase, maximum of two, at an additional cost. <b><u>PLEASE NOTE:</u></b> <b>additional</b> seats will not be assigned beside original seat purchases.</p> <p>Centre in the Square requires that all seats are assigned to audience members, including babies and small children in laps.</p> <p><b>Special Seating Requirements</b>  For guests requiring assistance or special seating (wheelchair access, mobility, visual or audio proximity) please contact the main office to request this at the time of fee payment and <i>before</i> the March 31<sup>st</sup> payment deadline.</p>



## ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL 2024 CONVOCATION INFORMATION

*.....continued*

### Additional Important Dates

<b>Grad Photos</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ March 18-22 &amp; 25-28</li> <li>• Chapel Boardroom</li> </ul>
<b>Grade 12 graduation/convocation meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Wednesday, February 7</li> <li>• Period 2, Alumni Hall</li> </ul>
<b>Community Award Applications</b>	♦ Available February 5 <sup>th</sup> , Due April 30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Valedictorian Applications</b>	♦ Available second week of semester 2, due before March Break
<b>Grad Retreat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ May 16<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Mt Mary, Ancaster - \$33</li> </ul>
<b>Grad Breakfast</b>	♦ May 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Gown Pick Up</b>	♦ Week of June 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Chapel Boardroom

### Gown Distribution

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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Students are expected to arrive at the Centre in the Square for check-in and rehearsal *2 hours prior* to the ceremony.

### 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>).

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.



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 256 grade 12 students who could potentially earn their SHSM Red Seal designations this year. There are also 311 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 112 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](http://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](http://highskills.ca) for more information

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



St. Mary's  
High School  
Library



## *View From the Learning Commons*

### *Your Librarian, Ms. Kenny*

*Ms. Kenny has an open-door policy for all students! Our Learning Commons is a “**happening place**” where students come to collaborate and learn. It is humming during the day with classes and filled with students studying during their lunch hour.*

*Ms. Kenny welcomes students into the Learning Commons as a space where all students belong and take ownership.*

*Visit me in my library office or email me [maryjo.kenny@wcdsb.ca](mailto:maryjo.kenny@wcdsb.ca) if you would like to learn more about our library.*

### *Your Learning Commons*

*The Learning Commons is the **heart and soul** of our school. Students learn about research skills and how to evaluate information with a detailed Lense.*

*Students can help themselves to popular books and magazines for leisure reading, collaborate on an assignment, or use digital resources to research a topic.*

*The Learning Commons offers a space for students to use computers and is technology centered. We offer Chromebooks and chargers, printer access, and 4 large T.V. monitors for assignment collaboration.*

*Visit the school library website: <https://vlcguides.wcdsb.ca/stmary> to learn more about us.*





# Student Activities Council

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



## BEGINNING OF WINTER



### ← CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES →

#### Christmas Food Drive

From November 27th to December 11th, students and their families were extremely generous with their donations. Classes competed for the best construction, and with your help, the school raised over \$3000 for St. Vincent De Paul. Thank you to everyone who helped, you made a difference!



#### Christmas Movie Night

On December 18th we had a blast watching a Christmas classic: Home Alone! Students were able to cozy up with their friends with some popcorn and hot chocolate. It's fair to say it was officially the Christmas season after that cozy movie night!



#### Christmas Dinner

We hosted our annual community Christmas dinner on December 7th. Students, staff, and family came together to enjoy delicious food courtesy of the Hospitality department, along with live music and a visit from Santa!





# Student Activities Council

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

## Christmas Assembly

You could definitely feel the holy jolly spirit during the Christmas assembly! The dance team performed two dances and the drama department showcased some improv! SAC created festive content for the students like a carpool karaoke, and we got a special christmas story from Mr. Schneider!



Eco-club also shared a video reminding us of what a great gift a clean earth is. Students also participated in games, our grade war is going great! And we can't forget the amazing shows put on by our Teacher Band and The Miracles! Thank you all for participating and to Tech-Crew who did an awesome job.



## ← COFFEE HOUSE →

Our fabulous SAC Art department organized the Fall Coffee House on November 16th. Families enjoyed amazing performances from students while enjoying delicious treats and drinks. Thanks to all who came, see you for the Spring Coffee House!



# Student Activities Council

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



## ← SAC UNITY →

On December 13th, The WCDSB Student Trustees organized SAC Unity at St. Jerome's University. There, all of the Student Activity Council's of WCDSB joined together as the Co-Presidents shared words of advice on how to be better leaders in our schools. Because of our overwhelming food donations, friendliness, and school spirit, our very own St. Mary's SAC won the spirit award! It was a really fun day, and the opportunity to get together to make sure all SAC's are doing their very best was really special!







# Dates to Remember



## February 14

Ash Wednesday  
Valentine's Day  
Report Card Distribution

## February 19

Family Day (no school)

## February 21

Dress Down Day

## February 23

Pink Shirt Day

## February 28

2024-2025 Course Selections  
due in my Blueprint

## March 8-15



## March 10

Daylight Savings Time Begins

## March 17

St. Patrick's Day



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

## March 18-28

Graduation Photos

## March 25-26

Progress Report  
Distribution

## March 27

Dress Down Day

## March 29

Good  
Friday



## April 1

Easter  
Monday

## April 4

Parent/Student/Teacher  
Conferences

## April 8

PD Day

## April 10

Coffee House

## April 17

Term 2 Begins

## April 21

Mental Health Week  
Begins

## April 24

Dress Down Day

## May 1

Mid-Term Report Distribution

## May 5

Catholic Education Week  
Begins

## May 12

Multicultural Week Begins

## May 15

Grad Retreat

## May 20

Victoria Day (no school)

## May 28

Grad Liturgy  
& Breakfast

## May 30

Relay for Life



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