Rooted in Faith - Learning in Love - Dedicated to Excellence

the Eagle's View

Rooted in Faith - Learning in Love - Dedicated to Excellence

April, 2024
Volume 16 Number 3

Features

P. 2.....Letter from Admin

P. 3..... Deacon's Bench

P. 4-5 .....Guidance Wing

P. 6..... Learning Commons

P. 7..... SHSM

P. 8..... Medellin Challenge 2023

P. 9-10 .....Relay for Life

P. 11-14 ..... SAC

P. 15..... Eagles View Film Festival

P. 16.....Dates to Remember

RELAY FOR LIFE

Canadian Cancer Society

May 30th, 2024 - 10:15 am to 2:55 pm

$20 to register
includes BBQ lunch, Relay t-shirt, and all event activities

$50 minimum in donations required
per person in order to participate

$70 total ($20+$50) minimum per person

@smhrelay for more info

MESSAGE FROM ADMIN

To our St. Mary's Families –

We trust this message reaches you in good health and you are enjoying the start to the delightful (and occasionally rainy) spring weather!

From April 22nd to 26th, St. Mary's observed Mental Health Week. Each day, both educators and students encounter various challenges, both big and small, which can contribute to feelings of stress. However, they continue to tackle these challenges with ingenuity and creativity, fostering meaningful connections with students and families. Mental Health Week serves as a valuable opportunity for practice, offering numerous chances for staff and students to engage in classroom and lunchtime activities, mental health discussions, and to be inspired by Jeff A.D. Martin's empowering "I Am Enough" presentation.

Looking ahead, Catholic Education Week will be celebrated from May 6th to 10th, celebrating together with a school-wide mass on May 7th where we come together in faith.

With only two months remaining in the 2023-2024 school year, despite the work ahead, time will surely pass quickly. We extend our best wishes to all graduating students as they navigate decisions for their futures beyond high school. Remember, the staff at St. Mary's are here to offer support as you navigate this transition.

Furthermore, several events are on the horizon, including the graduation breakfast and liturgy honoring the Class of 2024, and the graduation retreat. Our Relay for Life event, scheduled for May 30th, is a time for us to unite in honoring those whose lives have been touched by cancer. For more details on these events, please refer to our school website. As we move into June, we will celebrate our students through various events such as the extracurricular banquet, athletics banquet, year-end assembly, and convocation on June 13th.

We are grateful and appreciative of the support and collaboration of each member of our community as we work together toward the success of every individual and strive to create an inclusive environment for all. St. Mary's is a community rooted in faith, driven by love for learning, and committed to excellence.

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

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

From the Deacon's Bench…

Deacon Ed MacIntosh

We are excited to kick off Catholic Education Week and to celebrate our Easter Mass in the gym with Fr. Raphael Ma, from St. Mary's Parish in Kitchener as our Celebrant and Homilist.

During the upcoming weeks, we will be offering Morning Prayers in thanksgiving for the gift of Catholic Education. As well, there will be several activities including a series of speakers who will enlighten and enliven the students and staff on a variety of topics also related to the week's theme.

As we continue to celebrate the Liturgical Season of Easter we also are deeply into Gr. 10 retreats. We have just 2 more classes to go as we wrap up this busy time.

The end of the year is coming quickly and so is our Grad Retreat. Grads will travel to Mt. Mary for the day to reflect and discuss, not only their time at St. Mary's but what the future holds for them as they continue on their life's journey.

May God continue to bless you and your family during this Easter season.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. Amen…Alleluia!!

Deacon Ed

FROM THE GUIDANCE WING

Course Selection

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

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

Summer School

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

Applied to a College or University for September?

A good idea is to continue to track your application process. Students should go into their online college/university application to check that their marks are loaded accurately. If you find any errors, please make an appointment to see your guidance counsellor.

Community Service Hours

In order to graduate in June, grade 12 students have until April 30th to complete their 40 hours of community service. All community service hour information including a link to submit them electronically can be found here: https://www.wcdsb.ca/our-schools/student-community-involvement/

For all other students who are looking for volunteering ideas: **https://volunteerwr.ca/**

Interested in coming back for a 5th year?

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

FROM THE GUIDANCE WING

- Continued

Convocation for the class of 2024
Thursday June 13th, 2024 at 7:00pm
Centre in the Square

- Each student is allocated a *maximum of three tickets at a cost of $9 per ticket, plus a box office administration fee. Tickets are on sale from April 1 - May 1.*
- Centre in the Square requires that all seats are assigned to audience members, including babies and small children in laps
- Tickets may be purchased:
    - ◊ Online: **kwtickets.evenue.net**
    - ◊ By phone: (519)578-1570 or 1(800)265-8977
    - ◊ In person: Centre in the Square Box Office, **101 Queen Street North, Kitchener**

Special Seating Requirements – for guests requiring assistance or special seating (wheelchair access, mobility, visual or audio proximity) please contact the main office to request this. For more information visit our school website: https://stmary.wcdsb.ca/student-supports/convocation/convocation-information/

Graduation Community Awards

Applications for awards are due April 30th.

FROM THE LEARNING COMMONS

St. Mary's Library

Ms. Kenny, Librarian

In The News

Equitable & Inclusive Library Service

Hello library community of family and students at St. Mary's Secondary School.

Maintaining a diverse and equitable collection of material for our school community is critical. I am proud that we have a full selection of print and electronic books for students of all abilities to read.

I am amazed at how our research databases offer inclusion of access for all learners. Equity tools that are available include a Dyslexic font, translation of research articles into forty languages, font visibility, and text-to-speech just to name a few tools.

The library is the heart of the school. We are committed to ensuring that our library reflects the rich diversity of our school community.

Specialist High Skills Major

SHSM

St. Mary's

At the end of March, St Mary's students took part in the Regional Skills Ontario Competition for the Job Interview scope. This competition consists of a submitted resume and cover letter along with an interview. Provincial Skills Ontario will take place in Toronto at the beginning of May, with Nationals taking place in Quebec City at the end of May. Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top two:

Gold – Andrada Biris

Silver—Rihanna Atherton

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

YOUR PATH · YOUR CHOICE · YOUR FUTURE

Medellin Challenge 2024

On April 13th, three students from St. Mary's - Victoria C., Mia P., and Tyler W. - traveled to Colombia to participate in the Medellin Challenge 2024. This challenge provided an opportunity for students from around the world to work together and tackle real-life problems in communities in the developing city of Medellin, Colombia. The aim was to help students understand and empathize with real-world issues and encourage them to think creatively about potential solutions that could benefit the community economically, environmentally, and socially.

The challenge was led by students from the Colegio San Jose de Las Vegas school in Medellin, who welcomed the participants with open arms and introduced them to their beautiful city. St. Mary's was one of 18 schools that participated in the event, coming from countries such as Mexico, India, Qatar, Paraguay, the United States, and Canada. This experiential learning opportunity in Colombia was the culmination of months of work that began in February with the launch of the challenge. The students had virtual meetings every week with their team to develop their sustainable solution.

Victoria, Mia, and Tyler did an excellent job representing St. Mary's, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, and Canada. Their participation in the Medellin Challenge 2024 provided them with an unforgettable learning experience, and the work they did will have a direct and lasting impact on the communities of Medellin.

SMH AIMS TO RAISE $70,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY AT RELAY FOR LIFE 2024

Participating in Relay for Life has become a special tradition at SMH. Since 2018, SMH Relay for Life has raised over $260,000 in support of the Canadian Cancer Society!

Event Details

- date: **Thursday, May 30th, 2024**
- time: **10:15 AM - 2:55 PM**
- location: **SMH football field**

Our Goals

- **Fundraising Target**: We have set a goal of raising **$70,000** to help support research and essential programming for the Canadian Cancer Society.
- **Community Unity**: Relay for Life brings our school community together for an unforgettable day where students and staff will create lasting memories.

Activities - as participants walk around the field, they'll enjoy amazing activities, including:

- team challenges
- jumbo games
- inflatable sports games
- raffle table (with amazing prizes!)
- BBQ Lunch
- DJ
- photo booth
- face painting

Honouring Survivors

We'll begin the event with a lap dedicated to cancer survivors in our SMH community. Their strength and resilience inspires us all. The day will conclude with a powerful luminary ceremony, where we celebrate our survivors, remember those we have lost, and hope for a cure.

Registration Details

- **cost**: $20 (includes event t-shirt, BBQ lunch, and all activities)
- **deadline**: Register by **May 13th** via **http://relayforlife.ca/stmaryskitchener**
- **fundraising**: Each registered participant must raise a **minimum of $50** (in addition to the $20 registration fee) in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. Share your fundraising page on social media or get creative with garage sales, bake sales, or car washes!

Donate and Get Involved

- **prize donations**: If you would like to donate a prize for our raffle table, please contact **john.schneider@wcdsb.ca**. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
- **support our cause**: Visit our school website and select the Relay for Life banner or use the link below if you would like to donate and help us reach our goal **http://relayforlife.ca/stmaryskitchener**.

Questions - please contact **shawna.kropf@wcdsb.ca**

Eagles - let's help make cancer history!

Relay for Life

Student Activity Council

Check out what SAC has been up to lately!

← SEMI-FORMAL DANCE →

Students relaxed and had fun following exams on January 31 at the St. Mary's Semi Formal Dance! Everyone had a great time, enjoyed some refreshments, and made memories with friends at the photo booth.

← VALENTINES DAY →

On Valentines Day, students enjoyed candy grams, made friendship bracelets and cards, and decked themselves out in pink clothing to show off their spirit!

← COZY CARE DRIVE →

From February 20th to March 1st, period 1 classes competed against each other to collect the most donations for our Cozy Care Drive. Many donations were collected and sent to those in the community who needed clothes and hygiene products for the winter.

Student Activity Council

Check out what SAC has been up to lately!

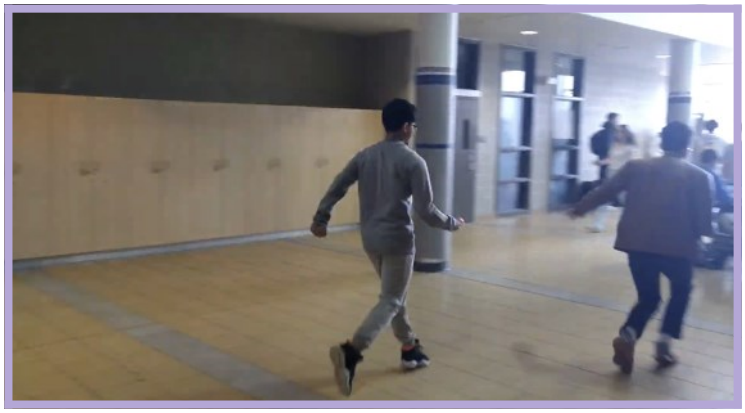
BEGINNING OF SPRING

← MIRACLES AND FRIENDS →

On February 20th, The Miracles hosted The Miracles and Friends Event. Friends and family came to enjoy vocal performances from some of St. Mary's Best!

← EASTER EVENTS AT ST. MARY'S →

St. Mary's set up an egg-and-spoon race and Jerome photo booth to celebrate Easter! The students in the Spec. Ed. Department followed clues around the school as a part of their easter egg scavenger hunt.



Student Activity Council

Check out what SAC has been up to lately!

←CAREER DAY →

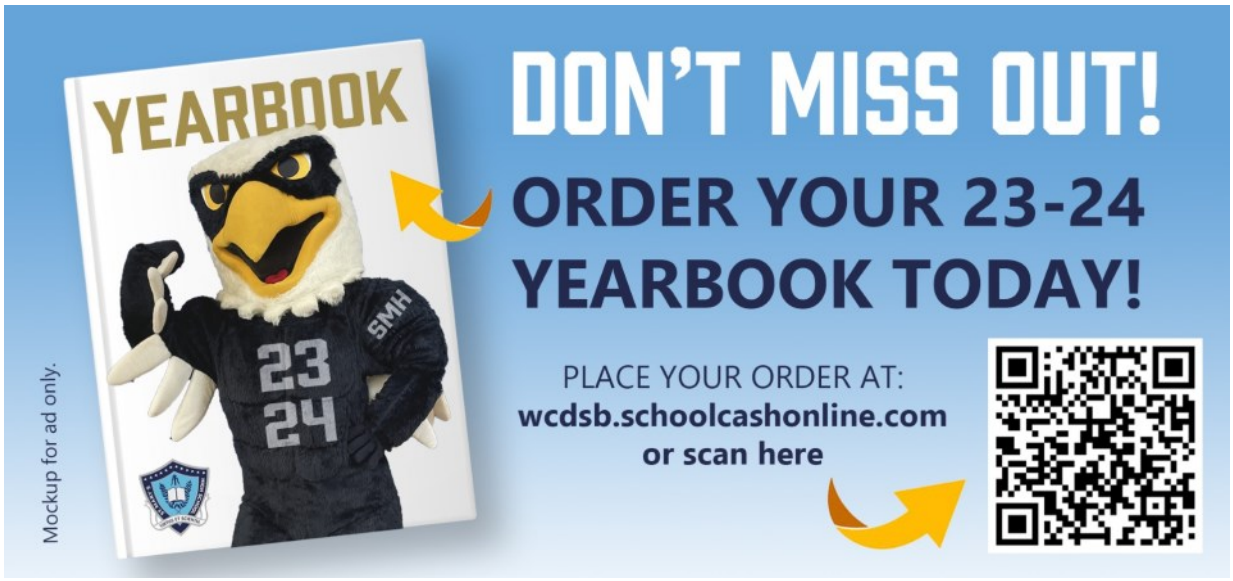
On April 15th, SAC hosted a Career Fair! This provided students with valuable insights into various career paths through engaging discussions and interactive booths. Attendees had the opportunity to network with industry professionals, leaving inspired and equipped with newfound knowledge for their future endeavors. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the professionals who generously shared their time and expertise at the Career Fair, enriching the experience for our students.

Student Activity Council

Check out what SAC has been up to lately!

←CULTURE AND DIVERSITY WEEK →

St. Mary's highlighted the culture and diversity in the eagles nest from April 15th-19th. Morning prayer was said in various languages and a cultural fashion show was held at the end of the week to wrap up the celebration of multiculturalism in our school!



CALLING ALL FILMMAKERS!
EAGLE'S VIEW
FILM FESTIVAL
If you have a short film you'd like to submit, please see Mrs. Clinton in Rm108. Films must be submitted no later than May 10th

Dates to Remember

May 1
Administrators Day
Report Card Distribution

May 5-11
Catholic Education Week

May 7
Provincial Mass

May 8
Full Disclosure

May 12
Mother's Day

May 15
Grad Retreat

May 20
Victoria Day

May 21
Catholic School Advisory Council Meeting

May 22
Dress Down Day

May 28
Grad Liturgy & Breakfast

May 30
Relay for Life

May 31
PA Day

June 4
Year End Liturgy

June 5
Year End Assembly

June 7
Crossing Guard Appreciation Day

June 11
Athletic Banquet

June 13
Convocation at Centre in the Squar

June 16
Father's Day

June 18-20
Quiet Days

June 21
Period 1 Evaluation

June 24
Period 2 Evaluation

June 25
Period 3/4 Evaluation

June26
Period 5 Evaluation

June 27
Credit Rescue

June 28
PA Day

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