Rooted in Faith - Learning in Love - Dedicated to Excellence

the Eagle's View

Rooted in Faith - Learning in Love - Dedicated to Excellence

June, 2024
Volume 16 Number 4

Features

P. 2..... Message from Admin.

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

P. 4.....Learning Commons

P. 5..... Guidance

P. 6.....Class of 2024

P.7.....Graduation Recital

P. 8.....Students of the Year

P. 9.....Rocket League

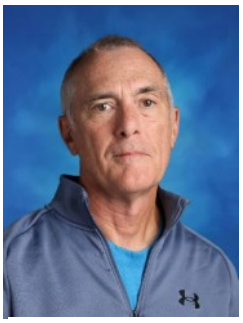
P. 10.....Relay for Life

P.11-14..... SAC

P. 15.....Dates to Remember

Happy Retirement!

Congratulations to our retiring Eagles!



Matt Acheson

Mark Cameron

Marlene De Groot-Maggetti

Rob Meissner

Farewell to our dear friends
Wishing you happiness, success
and good health!

MESSAGE FROM ADMIN

To our St. Mary's Families –

What a wonderful school year it has been! We know the summer break will bring time to refresh, and enjoy time spent with family and friends.

This school year we have experienced both triumphs and challenges, and the ability of our students to overcome obstacles with grace and determination has been inspiring. We celebrate you, our amazing students. We are proud of all you have accomplished, how you have supported one another, embraced new opportunities, and continuously strived for excellence. Your enthusiasm for learning and growth has made this year unforgettable.

This school year, we have been privileged to witness a multitude of incredible events and achievements including school dances, academic awards night, grade 8 parent night, SAC elections, DECA, Model UN, Medellin Challenge, outdoor retreats and field trips, athletic and art events, intramurals, liturgies, our first clubs banquet and our annual Relay for Life event which raised over $49,000 in support of the Canadian Cancer Society! Your efforts in giving back to the community have made a significant impact, and we are grateful for how you have made this a priority.

To the Class of 2024, 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. You should be so proud of all you have accomplished. We wish you the best as you experience the world beyond high school. You will do remarkable things and we are excited for your journey ahead!

For our returning students, please stay connected by visiting our school and board websites. September brings a new beginning, where growth continues in a community of inclusivity that aspires to bring hope, love, and a sense of belonging to all in the coming year.

The hard work and passion of our staff has made a profound difference in the lives of our students. They have gone above and beyond. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all and a special thanks to those who are retiring and leaving our school. Please join us in wishing Mr. Matt Acheson, Mr. Mark Cameron, Ms. Marlene De Groot-Maggetti, and Mr. Rob Meissner the best in retirement. We look forward to hearing about your wonderful adventures.

Thank you to our parents, for your steadfast support and partnership. Your involvement and encouragement have been vital in creating a nurturing environment where our students can thrive. We appreciate your dedication to their education and well-being.

The 2024-2025 school year also brings administrator staffing changes. Deanna Wehrle, Principal and Kevin Hinsperger, Vice-Principal, will be moving to Resurrection in September and St. Mary's welcomes David Jaeger, Principal (from St. David) and Remberto Roque, Vice Principal (from St. Benedict). Deanna and Kevin will miss St. Mary's and have enjoyed the opportunity to serve this community!

As we head into the summer months, we wish you all a wonderful, safe, and restful break. Enjoy your time and St. Mary's will be ready to welcome you back in September for another amazing year.

The St. Mary's Administration Team:

Michael Ambeau, Kevin Hinsperger, Anne Masojc, Luisa Vona, Deanna Wehrle

From the Deacon's Bench…

Deacon Ed MacIntosh

As we bid farewell to this academic year, I want to take a moment to celebrate your resilience, growth, and determination. Despite the challenges and obstacles that came our way, you've shown incredible strength and adaptability.

Remember the lyrics from the Canadian group Trooper's song, "Here for a Good Time, Not a Long Time." Life is indeed short, and this year has taught us to make the most of every moment.

"We're here for a good time, not a long time. So have a good time. The sun can't shine everyday."

You've done just that! Whether it was mastering complex math problems, writing thought-provoking essays, or collaborating with classmates, you've embraced the high school journey.

So, my dear students, keep shining brightly. Cherish the memories, celebrate your achievements, and continue to learn and grow.

Wishing you a fantastic summer break—rest well, recharge, and come back ready for new adventures!

With heartfelt gratitude, Deacon Ed

View From the Learning Commons

Your Librarian, Ms. Kenny

Congratulations on a very successful year to all! Thank you for making my start-up as your new librarian welcoming and heartfelt. I look forward to working with the students and staff of St. Mary's Secondary in the new school year, 2024-2025.

I reflect on all the wonderful students who will graduate and move on to further their studies and take on leadership roles in our community. Students will continue to seek out reliable and valid information, and to use database sources.

I have worked with many students and have found each one to be responsible and eager to learn about library resources. Congratulations, your library skills will take you very far in determining how to search and locate accurate information.

Continue to read over the summer months and enjoy all the great material that will come along with you to the beach, cottage, road trips. Don't forget that you can access free e-books from SORA digital books with school access: Sora Digital Books - St. Mary's Library Learning Commons - VLC at Waterloo Catholic District School Board (wcdsb.ca)

Don't forget to look up the many ***free*** *programs and events that the Kitchener Public Library has to offer you:* *Programs and Events - Kitchener Public Library (kpl.org)*

Fall in love with beach reads and paperbacks this summer!

the LEARNING COMMONS

FROM THE GUIDANCE WING

TIMETABLES & FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Student timetables for 2024-2025 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 4th. Please follow our website for important updates stmary.wcdsb.ca

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. If you registered for summer school and didn't complete the class, please reach out to your guidance counsellor to adjust your schedule.

OUAC and OCAS.

Gr 12's – Final marks will be uploaded to OUAC and OCAS in early July. Students who are going to college or university in September should check to make sure their marks have been uploaded correctly.

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

Thursday June 13th St Mary's Class of 2024 celebrated their Convocation at the Centre in the Square, where over 500 students crossed the stage. For this class in particular, it was quite the experience as they lost out on their grade eight graduation due to Covid.

Class of 2024 we are so happy to share in the excitement of your convocation and so very proud of you, too!

Congratulations on all your accomplishments, we wish you all continued success. Be bold, be courageous, be your best, and always be kind.

Graduation Recital 2024

Ms. Turman's senior vocal class ended the year with a wonderful graduation recital held in our very own chapel. The students sang many different styles and genres from Renaissance madrigals to Broadway classics. Each student had the opportunity to showcase their strengths and did not disappoint. We are so proud of these Eagle performers and wish them all the best.

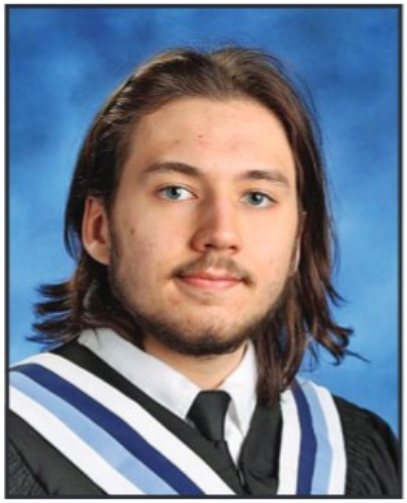
St. Mary's Standout Students of the Year

Showcased in the June 20th edition of The Record

Bryanna Donoghue

Bryanna is an outstanding young person, both in academics & leadership. As a student, she models what it means to be a leader & learner, contributing to both school and community. She has served as Student Trustee for the WCDSB, excelled in Model UN simulations, contributed to SAC, Link Crew, STEM Club, & Athletics, all while maintaining academic excellence & personal humility. Next year she will join the Munk School (U of T) in Social Sciences & Global Affairs.

Parents: Sylvia and Ryan Donoghue



Sam Anderson

Sam Anderson demonstrates a keen intellect and insatiable curiosity. His involvement in Math, Coding, Physics Club, Model UN, and Science Olympics highlights his diverse interests. As a dedicated athlete in Swimming, Cross Country, and Track & Field, Sam was recognized as a D8 Academic All Star and MVP. Winner of several subject awards, Sam's dedication and care for his studies is evident. With admission to McMaster University for engineering, Sam is poised for a bright future.

Parents: Joyce and Robert Anderson

Rocket League

Wednesday June 5 was the first ever WCDSB Rocket League Tournament hosted by Conestoga College Esports. This was a unique opportunity for students to showcase their skills, explore educational and career pathways in esports, and compete in a state-of-the-art facility.

St Mary's sent two teams:

1. Alpha (the junior team) - Miguel Garcia Ortiz, Zachary Thompson, and Jayden Woodall
2. Omega (the senior team) - Shayaan Dadan, Kian Pike, and Khaeden Victorino

Congratulations to Omega, St Mary's senior team,

who came in first place!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL COMMUNITY RAISES OVER $49,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY!

Our sixth 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 2024, St. Mary's raised an incredible **$49,000** that will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society and we are so proud of our school community! On June 6th, 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! Moving forward, Relay for Life will happen every other year at our school. We can't wait to see you at Relay 2026!!

Way to go, Eagles!

Student Activity Council

Check out what SAC has been up to lately!

END OF SPRING

← SPIRIT WEEK→

Our spirit week was May 13-17th! Students were allowed to wear their spirit wear tops all week long but on Tuesday there was a grade color shirt day, where each grade wore a different color. On Monday there was a rock paper scissors battle in their 3 and 4 period class which went over to Wednesday when they had the final all star battle at period 5! On Wednesday there was also karaoke in the lower forum where students sang their hearts out and on Thursday SAC members handed out free freezies to everyone in the lower forum! Finally on Friday there was the Relay for Life market where relay teams made foods and goodies and sold them to the student body to raise money for the Canadian Cancer society!

← CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK→

This year's theme for Catholic Education week was "We are called to love as people of… (Hope, faith, mercy, justice and joy)" On Monday students were able to write sticky note reflections about how they are called to love to be stuck on a collaborative banner in the upper forum!

Student Activity Council

Check out what SAC has been up to lately!

Mass was held on Wednesday, on Thursday and Friday we had guest speakers Chris Bray and Joe Mancini talk to the students about their inspiring stories!

← CAMPAIGN WEEK→

We are pleased to introduce Portia Curnew and Bella Poulopoulos as the new 2024/2025 co-presidents of St. Marys! There was no campaign week this year as only 2 SAC candidates put their names forward. Portia and Bella are highly involved members of SMH and we are very excited to see their passion and determination shine into the next school year! They were able to put out posters around the school about their campaign ideas and on the Thursday of spirit week they had a meet the co-prez's booth to introduce themselves to the spirit body! We can't wait to see what they do next year!

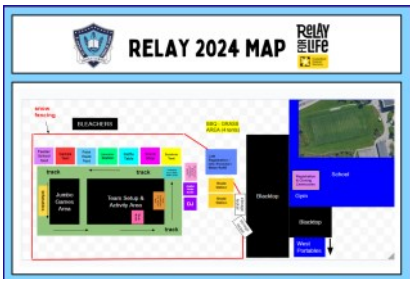
← GRAD BREAKFAST→

The Grad breakfast was hosted Tuesday, May 28th and celebrated all out of our graduating members of St. Marys. Grade 12s went to a liturgy beforehand and then partook in a wonderful breakfast with pancakes, eggs, bacon and much more!

Student Activity Council

Check out what SAC has been up to lately!

← RELAY FOR LIFE →



Relay for Life this year was held on Thursday June 6th on a wonderful breezy day! There were lots of smiles across the field as participants got face paint, played tug of war and three legged races as well as used the giant inflatable sports. The school's end of year barbecue was served at lunch as students got a free hamburger and chips! Participants were seen walking around in skirts and lays for the tropical themed lap. It was a beautiful event that raised over $40,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society!

← CLUBS BANQUET →

Our club's banquet was held on Monday June 3rd after school to celebrate all the wonderful people that attend the extracurriculars in our school. Everyone from any club was invited to attend and participants ate pizza, played bingo and promoted their club! It was a great opportunity for students to mingle with their friends and celebrate their beloved clubs.

Student Activity Council

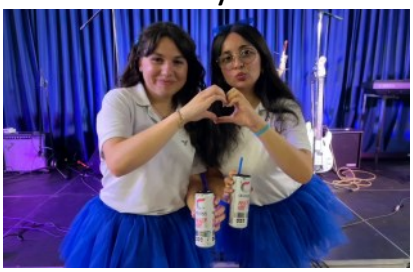
Check out what SAC has been up to lately!

← YEAR END MOVIE→

The year end movie happened on June 10th in Alumni hall after school. The students were able to bring in blankets to sit on and snacks as they sat with their friends. The students voted on “Barbie” the 2023 live action movie on Instagram, to watch and were encouraged to show up in pink! Lots of canned food items were acquired to give to the food bank.

← END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY→

The assembly was held on Tuesday June 4th during period 5. It showcased lots of St.Mary’s talent like our school and The Miracles, the concert band and teacher band as well as individual students Angelia Christakos, Sienna M and Marco Adaza. Hosted by MC’s Cornelia Manda and Bella Poulopoulos, lots of spirit was seen as the Merit Awards were presented and the annual Passing of the Torch was given to the new Co-Prez’s Portia Curnew and Bella Poulopoulos!



Dates to Remember

June 27

Last Day of School

June 28

PA Day

July 1

Canada Day

Summer Break begins

Mid July

Summer Mailout

August 5

Civic Holiday

September 2

Labour Day

September 3

PA Day

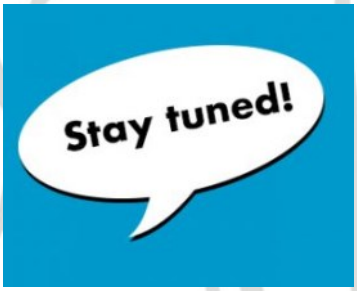
September 4

First Day of School

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 2024-2025 school year!

Rooted in Faith - Learning in Love - Dedicated to Excellence