

January Newsletter

St. Mary Catholic School

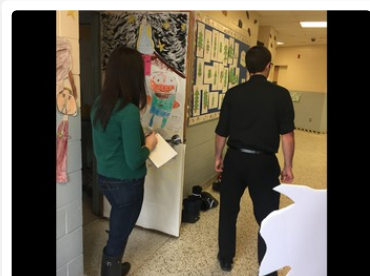
Principal's Message

January not only marks the start of a new year; it also represents that last phase of Advent for Christians. The time of Advent is a time when we are patient, we await the arrival of Jesus and we celebrate the solemnity of the Holy Family. There are many great lessons we can learn from the story of Jesus' birth and the make-up of His family. We are given these lessons for a specific reason and that is humility and service. The story of Mary and Joseph is one that is filled with the fundamental idea that we are put on this earth to serve God and each other. The story of the Holy Family is not a mistake and when we look at how they came to be, there are many ideas that still apply today. The key factor at the heart of the message is that we as a people are called to have faith and to follow God's will, even if it is not clear to us immediately. With the advent of the new year we are asking the same from our students and their families. The key theme for the rest of the school year will be based on the idea of Redemption and Forgiveness. As a community we need to maneuver ourselves to a position of conversation, forgiveness and building relationship. This can happen if we approach situations based on conversation and a lack of assumptions. The key message we can glean from Advent is that we have been given the greatest gift from God and with this gift Jesus' life will come to be a model of Servant Leadership and embracing everyone regardless of their challenges. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Thanks to St. Mary Catholic School Council, Mrs. Hoddinott's
and Ms. Kelly's Class Will Have a Goat Donated to a Third
World Family**

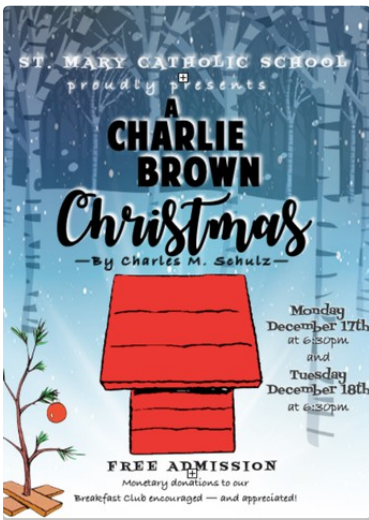


Father Francis and members of the Catholic Parent Council had a very difficult time selecting the winner of the "Decorate Your Door Festive in Faith Challenge." Every class participated in the challenge, and the time and effort put forth into each and every one of their doors was remarkable! After much deliberation, the honour went to Mrs. Hoddinott's and Ms. Kelly's classes. Together, the two classes told the Christmas story through words and visuals from the time when the angel Gabriel came to visit Mary until the day that Jesus was born. As part of the celebration Father Francis presented the two classes with a paper goat which represents the goat that will be purchased by our Catholic Parent Council for a third world country family. That goat will provide protein and income to help a family survive and thrive. One dairy goat can give up to 1,000 litres of milk in a year. The goat can be bred to produce 2-3 kids a year, and eventually multiply into a whole herd. Congratulations to all of the classes for their hard work in presenting such beautiful doors that really reflected the true spirit and meaning of Christmas!





A Charlie Brown Christmas was a HIT!



Thank you to our incredibly talented students who were part of the play. You truly made our school community proud and demonstrated what leadership looks like for your fellow students. I want to thank our students and their parents/guardians for staying for after school practices, for giving up recesses and lunch time for rehearsal and for your dedication to making this a great show. Thank you to Mrs. Wright, Ms. Malone, Ms. Kraska and Mme. Freundorfer for all of the hard work you put into making the show a success. We cannot wait to see what you do next year. Bravo!



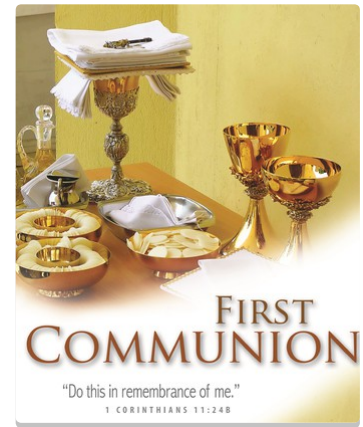
St. Peter in Chains Catholic Church Bulletin

Please click on the link below to see St. Peter in Chains Parish Bulletin

Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

- **Saturday, and Sunday February 23 & 24** at all Masses Enrollment
- **Tuesday, March 26, 6:30pm** First Confession;
- **Tuesday, April 9, 8:30am - 2pm** Retreat, St Mary School
- **Sunday, May 5, 1:00 pm** First Communion



Confirmation

- **Saturday and Sunday all Masses**, Enrollment Weekend
- **Wednesday, May 8, 8:30am-2:00 pm** Retreat, St. Mary School
- **Sunday, May 26, 2:00 pm** Confirmation



**ALL VISITORS
PLEASE
CHECK IN AT
FRONT OFFICE**

Please Start Your Visit at the Office

There is a reason we ask you to do this. School Administration is expected to practice what is called "Controlled Access" for our students during the school day. This means that they must not only know who has access to your children, but also ensure that only approved adults will be in contact with your children. For this reason, we do not allow parents to "just pop down to talk to the teacher, or just pop down to the classroom." In addition to controlling who has access to your children we do not want the flow of the classroom to be interrupted by spontaneous visits and requests for conversations with the teacher. When teachers are in the classroom the expectation is that they will be instructing your children. If you are having a friend, aunt/uncle or grandparent drop off a child could you please explain this to them. There were several occasions in December when relatives were confrontational with school Administration when they were asked to return to the office. This can be avoided if they come to the office and we will assist from there. Thank You.

FUN FRENCH FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Ontario workers who speak French and English earn on average \$9632.00 more each year than unilingual Anglophones.

*Encourage your child to be a
lifelong learner of French!*

After School ABA Program

Our school board will be running another Applied, Behaviour, Analysis program for students with Autism. The first cycle of the program was run at St. Mary's as we had enough students to fill a section. If your child was not able to participate in the first cycle you can sign up for the second one. Just contact Mrs. Tees, or Miss LaHaye to get the forms. If you need they will help you fill them out. This is an excellent program for students with Autism.



ABA Flyer.pdf

Click to find out more about the After School ABA Program.

[Download](#)
258.4 KB

Recycling Batteries

Did you know that the school has a Battery Recycling Depot in the Main Office? It is located by the sign in sheets and is a white bucket on the floor with a recycling symbol on it. You can send in used batteries with students and they are able to drop them off at the office. We encourage families to do this as not only does it reduce their carbon footprint, but it also prevents batteries from ending up in landfill sites.



Now Available!
Pay School Fees Online

With SchoolCashOnline you can:

- ✓ Pay for your child's school fees online. Anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ Avoid the hassle of having cash on hand to pay for school fees.
- ✓ Receive email notifications regarding school fees and events.
- ✓ Help us reduce the amount of cash in our schools.

Fast Safe Convenient

School Cash Online is our school's preferred method of payment.

KEV GROUP
SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Register for School Cash Online

This is an excellent way to pay for things at school. One of the biggest benefits is that it allows us to track payments easily should there be a discrepancy between our records and yours. It allows us to credit you back should the error be ours, or for you to be able to participate whenever convenient for your family. Some dates are set and cannot be moved for ordering, but in general Ms. Campbell is very flexible and helpful in sorting things out. We encourage all parents to sign onto this tool from our school website. You can also stop in and put money into your account through Ms. Campbell from 10-11 am every morning. Our goal is to get 90% of our families signed up by May 2019.

Social Media Posts from our Adult Community

Prior to Christmas there was a flurry of angry posts on various Face Book pages about events, incidents and occurrences at the school. Not only is this not the venue to have things resolved, the MOB mentality takes over and simple encounters become characteristics being ascribed to students, families and the general school community. As the leader in the school Mr. French does monitor and respond to online posts that do not follow our Community Code of Conduct, School Code of Conduct or the Responsibilities of the Parent in the Ontario Education Act. Please remember that you are responsible for what you post, what you say about other people's children and our staff. Posting negative comments about our school community does not make the school look bad as people who know our students, staff and families know we operate with integrity and Christian values. It is the damage to the reputation of the school and the casting in a negative light for future families that is of a concern along with the sharing of student's identities. Please remember you cannot post anything about someone else's child without explicit parent permission and anything deemed to be derogatory, threatening or undermining the values of the school will warrant a response from Mr. French. Please post wisely.

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



EQAO 2019

All grade 3 and grade 6 students will write the Education Quality, Accountability in Ontario provincial assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to see where our students are in their learning and ability to apply the curriculum we teach them. PLEASE DO NOT schedule appointments, trips, tournaments or vacations during the weeks of May 20th to May 31st.

Time to Register for Kindergarten

It is that time of year when we start making plans for next year. If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten (turning 4 by December of 2019) you can register them for next year. If you know someone who has a child who is eligible, please encourage them to do the same. You can download the registration forms online, or soon we will have an Online Registration Form that will allow you to electronically fill out the paper work and then bring in the necessary documents to finish the registration. Call the office if you have any questions.

**Our Catholic schools
are the place to be!**

Welcome to Kindergarten! Our Catholic Schools inspire and nurture strong communities of faith, engaged communities of learning and compassionate communities of service. Kindergarten registration is happening now for children born in 2011 or 2012. Please contact your local Catholic elementary school to arrange a visit and learn more about our classroom environments where young learners explore, discover and grow.

**Kindergarten Registration
is Now Open!**

Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
www.alcddb.on.ca 613-354-2255

DISCIPLESHIP • SCHOLARSHIP • STEWARDSHIP

The poster features a group of diverse young children smiling at the bottom. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, starting with a bold headline, followed by a welcoming message, a call to action, and contact information. The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board logo is at the top left, and the motto 'DISCIPLESHIP • SCHOLARSHIP • STEWARDSHIP' is at the bottom.

What does an IPRC mean?

There is an automatic assumption by some outside professionals that any student who is facing a struggle, has an identification, or may need some form of specialized service must have an Identification, Placement, Review Committee (IPRC) designation. There is also the assumption that if this process takes place the child will automatically get an Educational Assistant assigned to them one-on-one. There are several issues here that need to be addressed: 1. In ALCDSB we always do what is best for our students regardless of the presence of an IPRC designation. 2. Students who have formal diagnosis are entitled to the same level of service and programming with a Dr.'s diagnosis/report and that does not change by adding the IPRC. 3. In very rare cases are Educational Assistants assigned solely to a child, as that is counter intuitive to our goals of building strong and

independent students regardless of learning styles. There are very specific times when the school will encourage the IPRC process and those usually involve student placement in specialized programs, or a move to a region outside of Ontario. The key message is that as a school system we provide the best programming for our students based on our understanding of who they are; our relationships with our families and the building of a common understanding of goals through collaboration and mutual focus on our kids.

Message from your Catholic Parent Council

Dear St. Mary's Families,

On behalf of the St. Mary School Catholic Parent Council I write to you to update everyone on the efforts that our council will be focusing on in the next couple of months, but first we would like to extend some appreciation!

Thank you to everyone who bought from the Fresh From The Farm fundraiser, and/or came to our Halloween Dance! We appreciate your support, the money raised continues to go towards our efforts to better our school for our students.

Thank you to the students, teachers, staff, parents, and others who made the Charlie Brown Christmas play such a success! What an amazing display of talent! The CPC looks forward to supporting other dramatic arts efforts in the future, we are so proud of you all!

Thank you Father Francis for taking on the challenge of judging the door decorating contest! We are grateful for your help in naming the winning classroom, and look forward to purchasing a goat overseas for a family in need. This is made possible by all of our families who support our fundraisers and events we host, we are grateful for your support!

Back by popular demand- the Snow Ball! Hosted in February (Date TBD) please look forward to a fun night in fancy attire! As always, the dance admission price will include a slice of pizza, drink, and a door prize ticket. \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family no matter the size.

The CPC will also be hosting an open house forum night to discuss a school yard revitalization project set to begin this spring. Do you have an idea as to what you would like to see in our yard for our students? Come on out and share those ideas! Date will be determined at the first CPC meeting, and will be shared with families shortly after. Children will be welcome (as we want their input too!) and coffee/tea/treats will be served.

Are you curious about the Catholic Parent Council? Come on out to our next meeting on Tuesday, January 15th at 6:00 pm. No commitment required, you're welcome to join us and share your ideas/input! All parents/guardians welcome!

Thank you for your continued support, we are blessed to have such an incredible group of families within our school community. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to myself or another council member!

God Bless,

Jessica Couture

Catholic Parent Council Chair 2018-2019