



Principal: Kim Spencer  
Secretary: Heidi Modesti

# St. Mary's Catholic School

92 Main Street South  
Hagersville, Ontario  
N0A 1H0  
(905) 768 5151  
[www.stmaryhagersville.ca](http://www.stmaryhagersville.ca)  
[@stmhagersville](mailto:@stmhagersville)

## February 2020 Newsletter



### Principal's Message

Dear Families,

This week your children will bring home their reports for Term 1. What an excellent time to sit down and have a conversation with your child. Ask them what they like about school, what they find challenging and where they think they might be able to improve or work harder? Hopefully the marks on the report card will align with what they say. It is also a wonderful time to set goals with your children. Review your expectations for them. Have them tell you what they like to work on and what they might need your help with. Some helpful tips include: setting a regular routine for homework and keeping to a regular bed-time routines. Sleep and nutrition are direct influences on a child's ability to learn. This might also mean the family sits together at the kitchen table while everyone works on something, and the TV and video games are off. The latest research shows how detrimental too much screen time is for all of us but especially harmful to children and their developing brains as well as being distracting to us as parents. Consider a time where everyone puts down their phones, devices or other technology. It might mean everyone works in their own areas. Whatever plan you create, it's important to create it together. Working with our families for our students' continued success is one of our primary goals. Please do not hesitate to contact the classroom teacher or myself if we can be of any help.

Soon we will enter the season of Lent. This officially starts on Ash Wednesday (February 26th) and typically is a day of fasting. Our Ash Wednesday mass will take place at 9:15 at St. Mary's Church. All are welcome. The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. How will you and your family commit to Lent this year? It is the perfect time to pause and reflect on how we can hear God's voice speaking to us and how we can renew our call to serve those among us in need.

Thank you for your continued support. It is in working together that we all truly are successful. Thank you for choosing Catholic education.

Kimberley Spencer

Principal

### WORKING TOGETHER IN THE PARKING LOT

Student safety is a priority for all of us at St. Mary's School. Our school buses bring over 75% of our students to school. They drop students off from 8:35-8:50 as well as come to pick them up at the end of the day. We all have to work together to ensure the safety of students walking in the parking lot onto the school yard or as they board/offload from their bus.

Parents MUST NOT park and exit their vehicle in our bus loading/unloading area. There is no parking in the respective traffic/bus lanes or identified areas with pylons. If you wish to walk your child onto our school yard, you must park your car in the designated parking area. If you plan to wait to watch your child walk onto the yard, please do not do so in our bus area. Please wait for buses to load/unload and leave prior to moving your vehicle.

Please extend co-operation and courtesy when you need to use the parking lot. As our parking lot is used by our school buses, parents and church goers, please note that it is also vitally important that speed limits are maintained for safety in the parking lot.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

## **COMMUNICATION IS KEY! STAY INFORMED!**

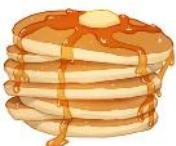
Working together is the key to success for our students. To that end, we would like to make an effort to make sure that all communication is timely and relevant.

In order to accomplish this we will be updating our school website and calendar on a regular basis. All newsletters and dates of important events will be posted and updated. This is also where you can access School Cash Online which is our method of payment for everything from hot lunches to school trips. Important information regarding job action is also posted to our school website.

Stay informed and receive all the information you need by visiting [www.stmaryhagersville.ca](http://www.stmaryhagersville.ca) and by following us. Sign up for notifications to have the information come directly to you! This information can come directly to your inbox whenever there is a new item posted to the website. If you have updated your email address, please make sure the office is aware so you don't miss any important updates that we may send from the office!.

Twitter is another way to follow us [@stmhagersville](https://twitter.com/stmhagersville) to see the amazing things happening in our school community. We regularly update our Twitter feed by posting pictures and information from classroom and school events. This can keep you up to date with valuable information from our school as well!

### **SIGN UP FOR NOTIFICATIONS! STAY CONNECTED!**



### **SHROVE TUESDAY**

Shrove Tuesday is the day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday, which is traditionally celebrated by consuming pancakes!

It is known as the day of "fat eating" or indulging before the fasting period of Lent. This year, Shrove Tuesday occurs on Tuesday February 25.

To celebrate, members of our CSAC will be making pancakes for our school community. Please pay via School Cash Online (\$2) to help offset the costs of this fun and yummy lunch.

Thanks to our CSAC members for cooking for our school family!

### **VENDORS FAIR**

This year's Vendors Fair will be on April 4, 2020. The St. Mary's CSAC will be hosting this fundraiser for our school community.

Tables will be \$25.00.

If you are interested in being one of our Vendors, please contact a CSAC member or the school office and we can put you in contact with the organizers of this exciting event!

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

The Board of Trustees has approved the Inclement Weather & Temporary School/Facility Closures Policy and Administrative Procedure (#400.01). The new policy and administrative procedure is available on the Board's website ([www.bhncdsb.ca](http://www.bhncdsb.ca))

What does this mean for families?

- when transportation is cancelled in **ZONE 2** due to inclement weather and road conditions, schools and school facilities are closed to students and staff.
- when transportation is cancelled due to extreme cold weather which makes the operation of busses difficult and the wait times for students for the bus problematic. In this situation, schools and school facilities would remain open to staff and students.

Information regarding school closures will be communicated via twitter, website, school messenger call/email as well as through community media partners.

## **REMINDER: FOOD ALLERGIES**

This is to advise you that we have students who are allergic to peanuts, tree nuts, pistachios, sesame seeds. It is requested that parents of all students do not pack any foods or send food items containing any of these.

Our schools have been directed by senior administration to not allow the product known as 'WowButter' into our classrooms. Children who have an anaphylactic allergy to nut products could easily be confused by which product is which, and this could cause a great deal of anxiety and confusion for both staff and students. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated once again in making our school a safe environment for all our students.

If your child has anaphylaxis and you have not yet made us aware of this, please contact us immediately. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Feb 5: Earth Ranger Assembly  
Feb.7: Reports Home, Pizza Day  
Feb. 18: Spirit Wear Orders Due  
Feb. 25: Shrove Tuesday (Pancakes)  
Feb. 26: Pink Shirt Day (Kindness Assembly)

Feb. 5-7: Book Fair (in the library)  
Feb. 14: Valentine's Day Activities, Pizza Day  
Feb. 21: Pizza Day  
Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:15  
Feb. 28: Chicken Finger Day

### **LATE TO SCHOOL?**

School begins at 8:50 am. Since returning from Christmas Break, we have been experiencing a high number of students who are late for school and are asking for parents/guardians to ensure that students are in the classroom and ready for the day at 8:50 am. When students arrive late to school they are missing important math/literacy concepts. Please call the school to let us know if your child will be late or absent. Thanks for your cooperation

### **LEAVING FOR APPOINTMENTS?**

A parent/guardian who requires a student to leave the school before dismissal time must come to the office to sign the student out. All students must be picked up at the office. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of all of our students. If a student returns from an appt, they must come to the office and sign in.



### **VALENTINES DAY AT ST. MARY'S!**

We will be celebrating this special day with a Valentine's Social for all of the students in our school! On February 14th wear Valentine's colours (red/pink/white)! More information will be coming about this event from our Student Leadership Team.

### **PARENTS/VISITORS MUST REPORT TO OFFICE**

We encourage and welcome visits from parents. Please be sure to report to the office so we can welcome you. All visitors must sign in and wear appropriate identification. All visitors must come to the office and enter the building through the front door. No entry is permitted through the kindergarten doors.

**ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN IN AT OFFICE**

### **VARSITY BASKETBALL**

The basketball team at St. Mary's had their tournament that was held at Assumption College in Brantford this past week. Both the boys and girls teams participated in many games throughout the day. Each team played four games and both teams won two of those games. Points were scored by Lainey, Isobel, Jasmine, Shantel, Connor, Max, Jordan, Stephen R. and Xavier. All students put forth an amazing effort. Go St. Mary's

By Samantha Nemeth

## NEWS FROM ST. MARY PARISH

Weekend Masses: 5 pm on Saturday and 10:30 am on Sunday

First Reconciliation: March 31, 2020 at 7pm

First Holy Communion: May 3, 2020 at 10:30 mass

Confirmation: April 26, 2020 at 2 pm

Next Youth Mass: Feb. 23 2020

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

JAN. 6 – FEB. 28, 2020

REGISTER ONLINE AT [CATHOLICEDUCATION.CA](http://CATHOLICEDUCATION.CA)



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK  
Catholic District School Board

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

It's never too late to register for Kindergarten next year! Students who will turn 4 years of age by Dec. 31, 2020 are eligible for JK, while students who will turn 5 are eligible for SK. If you know of families in our area who have children of this age, please pass this information along to them. Registration is completed online. If assistance is required, contact the school at 905 768 5151.

### ATTENDANCE AND ILLNESS



Students, unless ill, are required to be prepared for each day's classes, to have the materials needed, and to have assignments completed. Regular attendance is necessary if a student is to experience success.

However, if your child is ill, we urge you to make arrangements for day care rather than sending your child to school when he/she is ill. Staying indoors during the breaks due to illness is not good for the child or the health of those around your child.

### ST. MARY'S SPIRIT WEAR

This year we are excited to have a St. Mary's Spirit Wear campaign! Students have received order forms for these clothing items earlier this week. Orders and payment (cash or cheque as per the order form) are due no later than Feb. 18. No late orders will be accepted.

If you need to try an item on for size, samples will be arriving early next week.

Contact the office if you have any questions.



### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

At St. Mary's School, we begin every morning with Christian Meditation following our morning prayer and O Canada. In each classroom it is also used as a form of prayer throughout the school day. Ask your child to guide your family through it at home! Christian Meditation is a way of becoming present to God and entering into prayer of the heart. It is a meaningful and authentic way to pray and helps children on their faith journey. It is one form of prayer that we share here at St. Mary's

## **SCHOOL CASH ONLINE—VERY IMPORTANT**

This year St. Mary's School will only utilize School Cash Online as a form of payment.

**NO CASH or CHEQUES will be accepted.**

**Hot lunches will be ordered through School Cash Online**

We really appreciate having every family on board with this initiative. Once you are registered, you can pay for field trips, hot lunches etc., for all your children at one time.

Credit Cards can now be used on School Cash Online.

Please contact the office if an alternative arrangement needs to be made.

We are here to support you as we transition completely to a fully utilized School Cash Online system.

Instructions have been sent home.

Do not hesitate to contact the office with any questions about School Cash Online.



## **School Cash Online**

## **VOLUNTEERING AT ST. MARY'S**

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS/ GUARDIANS/ COMMUNITY MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERING IN OUR SCHOOLS!



**REQUIREMENTS:** A Vulnerable Sector Police Check AND completion of an Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities ACT (A.O.D.A.) training module are required to Volunteer with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board. As well, volunteers are required to complete BHNCDSB Confidentiality Agreement.

Volunteers **must** have a Police Vulnerable Sector and Police Check completed every three (3) years. During the years that the Police Check is not required, the volunteer must sign the prescribed Offence Declaration. These documents can be obtained at the school office. Contact Ms. Modesti for more information.

## **TEACHING HEALTHY HABITS AT MEALTIME**

- Eat the way you want your child to eat - try new foods together, but don't force your child to try them.
- Avoid labeling food as "good" and "bad" - teach your children that they need to balance nutritious foods with fun snacks.
- Look for ways to manage stress and boredom that do not involve food.
- Encourage your kids to help prepare meals, set the table and help with dishes.
- Enjoy your meals - positive attitudes are contagious!

Help keep your child  
**HEALTHY**



The Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit will be visiting our school during the month of October to conduct dental screenings (selected grades) and vision screenings (SK only).

**Health and Social Services**  
Haldimand and Norfolk  
519-426-6170 or  
905-318-6623 Ext. 6061  
schoolhealth@hnhs.ca