



October 2023 Newsletter



Principal: Karen Wilkinson

Secretary: Kristal Beauvais

St. Mary's Catholic School

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Principal's Message

Dear Families,

We have had a great start to the 2023-2024 school year. Students are settling into routine nicely. I would like to thank those who attended our Meet the Staff BBQ. What a fabulous community this is to be a part of.

As we enter into Autumn and the season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of God's infinite love, acts of miracles and our daily blessings. Here at St. Mary's School we are so thankful that you have chosen to share your most precious gifts, your children, with us! Our community of school, home and parish is built upon wonderful relationships and we look forward to many experiences together this year.

During the upcoming holiday weekend of Thanksgiving, I wish for you a restful time that will offer you the chance to enjoy your beautiful surroundings and more importantly your wonderful families, while giving thanks to God for all that we have been given. I know that I count my vocation as principal of this amazing community as one of my greatest blessings.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank You, thank You, thank You, generous God!

You have injected life with joy, thus we know laughter.

You have dabbled creation with color, thus we enjoy beauty.

You have whistled a divine tune into the rhythm of life, thus we hear music.

You have filled our minds with questions, thus we appreciate mystery.

You have entered our hearts with compassion, thus we experience faith.

God Bless

Mrs. Karen Wilkinson

Principal



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.

Volunteers **must** have a Police Vulnerable Sector and Police Check completed every three (3) years. This process is done online now. A letter from the office is needed first in order for this process to be completed. [Become a volunteer | Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board \(bhncdsb.ca\)](#)

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE—VERY IMPORTANT

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

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.

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

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

Because of allergies, we are unable to accept items from home for classroom celebrations, birthdays etc.

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.

HALLOWE'EN ACTIVITIES AT ST. MARY'S

Students and staff members at St. Mary's School always enjoy celebrating Hallowe'en. Students are encouraged to wear orange and black or Hallowe'en costumes on October 31st . Only costumes may be worn... no props can come to school. It is very disappointing to go home with a broken costume piece. Please no weapons or excessive blood and gore. We have to remember that we have some students who are very young and this can be frightening.

We are asking if you are sending in treats that you are very cautious that they do not contain nuts. Choosing a non food item might be a better option. (pencils, spider rings etc.)

Activities will occur throughout the day in each classroom to celebrate this fun day!

LEAVING FOR APPOINTMENTS?

A parent/guardian who requires a student to leave the school before dismissal time must come to the main door to pick up and verify that the student is leaving. 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 check in upon their arrival.

KNIGHTS in ACTION:

We are on the lookout for students making great choices that reflect our Gospel values. Students caught will be awarded a "Knights in Action" that identifies what they did and who they are and will be posted. Mrs. Wilkinson will then make monthly draws from Kindergarten/Primary, and Junior/ Intermediate award winners. At the end of each month, all student Knights in Action awards will be entered into a draw for lunch with the Principal. Help us to support this positive recognition program by asking your child how they served their school today.



Pizza Days

Starting on Wednesday Oct. 11th we will be having Pizza hot lunch every Wednesday. Orders for the next six weeks have to be completed in school cash online and must be completed by the end of the day Friday Oct. 6th. .



Milk

Milk will be every Tuesday and Thursday starting on Tuesday Oct. 10. Orders for milk must be submitted before Oct. 5th.



NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S PARISH

MASS TIMES Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00pm; St. Mary's

Sunday: 8:30am St. Ann's;

10:30am St. Mary's

Weekday Masses: Tues—Fri, 9:00am at St. Mary's;

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION forms can be dropped off at the parish office no later than Friday October 27th. There will be an enrollment ceremony for all those registered on Sunday November 5th at 10:30 am mass.

Picture Day

Our picture day is Oct 27th. Bring those smiles!



Spirit Wear

We have put a variety of spirit wear items on School Cash Online. Deadlines for orders is October 13th.

PA DAY

Tuesday Oct. 3rd is a PA Day. Students do not come to school.

pa day

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

We welcome our new Catholic School Advisory Council for this year, and we look forward to a successful year working together to enhance the learning environment at St. Mary's School!

Our next meeting will be on November 8, 2023 at 5:30

2023-2024 CSAC Executive

Co-Chair: Melanie Montague/ Danielle Sadonoja

Treasurer: Joana Dixon

Secretary: Alison Willis