



# SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

Welcome to a new and exciting year at St. Mary's! I am so happy and excited to be returning to the school team as your principal again this year. A special welcome is extended to all students returning to St. Mary's and to those who are joining our school community for the first time. The staff and I look forward to working with your child(ren) during the upcoming school year.

Your child's spiritual, emotional and academic growth are most important to all of us here at St. Mary's. I anticipate a year filled with many successes and perhaps some challenges as well. Working in partnership helps to keep our school vibrant and collaborative. We appreciate your assistance at home in helping and supporting your child(ren)s educational journey.

Our board theme this year is *We Are Called to Love*. With the complexities of our world and our communities today, we can stray from the peace that comes when we are in communion with each other. In our unity, we celebrate our diversity, all uniquely created by God.

Please sign-up to receive informational updates on our school website- [www.stmaryhagersville.ca](http://www.stmaryhagersville.ca) and follow us on Twitter @stmhagersville where we will celebrate all the wonderful things that are certain to happen this year at St. Mary's!

Looking forward to many wonderful successes this year! May God continue to bless our entire school community. Please feel free to contact me at the school at any time.

Mrs. Karen Wilkinson

Principal



God who is love,

Love is our calling, and the goal for which you have made us.

May our love in action reveal to our world

That we are people of justice and mercy.

May our daily words and example show clearly

That we are people of faith and hope.

In the ways we reflect you daily,

May everyone recognize us as people of joy.

Help us to never forget how much you love us,

And to cherish your life within us,

Which gives energy and direction to our loving.

May we hear your call to love generously and inclusively,

And may we call our world to be more loving also.

All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, our Friend and our Lord.



## Staff for 2023-2024

Kindergarten..... Ms. Csercsics  
 ECE .....Mrs. Boadwin  
 Kindergarten .....Ms. McEnhill  
 Grade 1.....Mrs.Huculak  
 Grade 2 .....Ms. Altenburg  
 Grade 2/3 ..... Ms. Macleod  
 Grade 2/3 .....Ms. Cairns  
 Grade 3/4 .....Mrs. Nogard  
 Grade 4/5 .....Mrs Charlong  
 Grade 6/7.....Ms. McDonald  
 Grade 7/8 ..... Miss McDonald  
 French..... TBD  
 Special Education...Mrs. Skrzypek-Lakie  
 S.T.E.M. .... Mr. Senia  
 Prep.....Mr. Stephen  
 Prep.....Ms. Mendoza

Educational Assistant ..... Mrs. Whyte  
 Educational Assistant .....Mrs. Stone  
 Educational Assistant ..... Mrs. Noonan  
 Educational Assistant.....Ms. McKenzie  
 Educational Assistant.....Mrs. Maguire  
 Educational Assistant..Ms. Cuiper-Austin  
 Librarian.....Ms. Martin  
 Custodian .....Ms. Bottrell  
 Secretary .....Mrs. Beauvais  
 Principal .....Mrs. Wilkinson



## **ARRIVAL PROCEDURES**

Our students will be arriving to school and transitioning directly into the school upon arrival. This will allow students to naturally enter the building any time after 8:35 am. An adult will be supervising students arriving and others inside the school and portables as they transition. Students in *Grade 1-8* will enter the school through the back door. Our kindergarten students will be met by staff and taken into the school via the kindergarten doors closest to the bus drop off area by an adult. Supervision is available from 8:35-8:50. Please do not drop your child before 8:35 as there will be no educator supervision available and students will not be permitted entry into the building until this time. We also ask that you drop your children off by the pylon area and not accompany them around the back of the school. This helps us keep the students safe and we know where folks are. As always, student safety is our priority at St. Mary's School.

## **PARKING LOT SAFETY**

Parents, please be aware that parking is always a concern here at St. Mary's. Please extend co-operation and courtesy when you need to use the parking lot. As our parking lot is used by our school buses, there is no parking in the respective traffic/bus lanes or identified areas with pylons. It is also vitally important that speed limits are maintained for safety in the parking lot. Our bus loading/unloading area is for buses to wait in only. Parents must let children out of their vehicles and leave immediately. This is not an area to wait and watch your child walk onto the school grounds. If you wish to do this, you must go park your vehicle in the parking area and watch from there. Our buses will use the loading/unloading area as priority vehicles. Our buses will board our students at the end of the day and parents must wait for these buses to leave before moving into this space. Please do not line up along the orange line waiting to pick up your child until all buses have left. We need to limit contacts for all of our St. Mary's Knights. Children will exit the school in a controlled fashion ONCE the buses have left, from around back.



## STUDENT INSURANCE

A Student Accident Insurance form is available online for your consideration. Should your child need an ambulance, damage their teeth or break a bone, this insurance will cover many costs not covered by OHIP or employee group plans. This insurance will provide coverage for school activities as well as activities outside of the school day. Should your child be injured on the basketball court, the baseball diamond, the soccer field or hockey rink, you will be able to claim many of the expenses associated with their injury if you purchase Student Accident Insurance. All rates are one-time, annual fee and family rates are offered. **Please consider purchasing this affordable insurance** by completing the Application Form and returning it to Reliable Life Insurance Company. Please see [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com)

## **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL**

Communication between home and school is essential for student achievement! We support safe communication tools for parents and staff. Aligning with our district policies, we will be using approved electronic communication tools in our classrooms (Brightspace). If you have questions about this tool, contact your child's teacher.

## **LEAVING FOR APPOINTMENTS? DROPPING OFF OUTSIDE OF BELL TIME?**

A parent/guardian who requires a student to leave the school before dismissal time must ring the doorbell to sign the student out with the secretary. All students must be picked up at the front door. If dropping off, buzz the office for student entry.

## **MEDICATION**



The staff at St. Mary's School must follow BHCNDSB procedures for the administration of medication during school hours. If your child requires such medication you are asked to contact the Principal and the necessary arrangements will be made.

Authorization to provide such service must be made in writing by the parent and physician on the appropriate form (obtained at the school). Only prescription drugs will be administered. Nonprescription drugs such as aspirins will NOT be administered to the students.

## St. Mary's is a NUT FREE facility.

There are students in our school with life threatening allergies to **peanuts and tree nuts**. Even a trace amount from peanut/nut products or food that has come in contact with a peanut/nut source (cross contamination) can result in a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. The most serious reaction being respiratory difficulties, blockage of the airways, which if not medicated immediately, can lead to death.

To provide the minimized allergen environment, we need the support and cooperation of the parents/guardians and the school community. Students are asked to bring lunches and snacks free of peanuts and tree nuts as well as products that have the "may contain **peanuts/tree nuts**" warning on them. Please read labels before sending food to school. Keep in mind not all packaging is clearly labelled with the warning. Truly, this is a life saving measure. If you have caregivers who provide your child with lunches or snacks we encourage you to share this information with them.

### **NUT ALLERGY HELP (Understanding what to look for.)**

When identifying whether or not food is safe to send to school, there are few things to look for:

#### **1. READ THE LABELS!**

That means there should be **NO** tree nuts & peanuts in the ingredients.

The item should also be made in a **TREE NUT & PEANUT FREE FACILITY**.

The label can **NOT** say "May Contain Nuts" or made on equipment that also processes nuts, or anything similar.

#### **2. DON'T BE FOOLED BY SYMBOLS!**



*The symbol on the left  
Indicates "peanut free", but not  
necessarily "tree nut" free.*

*Each companies standard  
of school safe is different!*



*Please read the ingredients to be sure!*

Anaphylaxis Canada recommends reading all labels instead of just reading the symbols

#### **3. Remember that peanuts and tree nuts are NOT the same thing**

- **Peanuts:** a member of the legume family and not botanically related to tree nuts
- **Tree Nuts:** Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Cashews, Chestnuts, Hazelnuts, Hickory Nuts, Macadamia Nuts, Pecans,  
Pine Nuts, Pistachios, Shea Nuts and Walnuts

## **STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS**

Student Verification Forms have been sent to all parents, It is the standard form from our student management system. We realize that family information and circumstances may have changed over the summer. Please review the Student Verification Form and make additions and changes as required. Updated parent contact information/email addresses are vital to office communication. Please sign the form and return it to the school at the earliest opportunity. Updated prevalent medical condition forms are needed at the office as soon as possible. If you have received a form, please send it with your child as soon as possible. Please sign into your school cash online account to complete and submit the following consent forms; Notice of collection and use of personal information; concussion awareness procedure; Student information and communications technology; STEM Maker Space-Safety Contract.



## **PICTURE DAY October 27<sup>th</sup> 2023**

### **SCHOOL CASH ONLINE**

Rather than accepting cash or cheques, St. Mary's School uses School Cash Online. No cash or cheques will be accepted for payment of any items (ex. field trips etc).

Registration is simple and easy. Once you are registered, you can pay for field trips, hot lunches etc., for all your children at one time. Information is attached on how to sign up for School Cash Online. Credit Cards can now be used on School Cash Online. <http://bhncdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

We will hold our first Catholic School Advisory Council meeting at the school on September 27, 2023 at 6:00 pm. School Council elections will be held at this time if required. Nominations are due at the office by Monday Sept. 25.





**Meet the Staff**

St Mary's Welcome BBQ

Thursday Sept. 21/23

4:00-5:30

The Knights of Columbus will be cooking hamburgers, hotdogs and french fries. Water and juice available

Donations will be accepted as a freewill offering to help offset the cost of food.

**ST. MARY'S**  
**KNIGHTS**

