

## Religion Department NEWS

This has been a busy few months in the Religion Department. We wish Ms. Buencamino well on her maternity leave and welcome Ms. Messih back to the department for another semester. Her students will benefit from her hard work and skill. Our retreat program is more than half completed under the direction of Mr. Valookaran. Our grade 10 and 11 students continue on trips to the Scott Mission and Temple Tours respectively.

St. Mary has collected 60,000 lbs of clothing, food and household items for Canadian Food for Children. In addition, there have been 4 trips to Mississauga to the CFC warehouse for students to help Dr. Simone in his loading of containers for shipping to less fortunate countries. Finally, St. Mary will be collecting more donations during the upcoming Parent-Teacher interview night and any students requiring community service hours can earn those hours by

donating; for details see Mr. Loud-foot. Start your spring cleaning and help those who are less fortunate.

The ACT Committee has been very busy the past few months! The group enjoyed being a part of the Harmony Group's initiative for the second annual Multi-Cultural Night. The ACT Committee took on the country of the Philippines. Dancing, Karaoke, lantern making and flag colouring kept visitors very busy and entertained. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed the dishes of noodles, spring rolls and fruit salad.

The ACT Committee will be preparing for its biggest fundraiser of the year 'THE 25 HOUR FAST'. 100 students will selflessly dedicate 25 hours to reflect on the impoverished and abstain from food during this time. Donations and pledges from this event support a vast array of local and global organizations such as: Alcala School in the Philippines ( a feeding program for nutritious lunches everyday),

Canadian Food for Children, Covenant House, Learning for Hope (Peru), The Refuge Homeless Shelter for Youth, Rose of Durham, Denise House, St. Mary Christmas families, Share Life, and St. Paul's on the Hill Foodbank This year's fast will take place from May 7th until the morning of the 8th when the fast will be broken with a well-deserved breakfast. Please keep the participants, students and teachers, in your prayers. For inquiries in making a pledge or donation, please don't hesitate to contact the school. (Mrs. Hudson's Grade 12 Religion classes recently had a bake exchange. All ate well, and shared lots of goodies, and \$200 was raised for charity!

*May the joy of the Easter season be with you,*

*Ian Gogolek,  
Religion, Curriculum Chair*

PRODUCED BY ST. MARY BUSINESS SHSM

**ST. MARY STAND UP WEEK**  
**APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> 2010**  
**THINK PINK**

WORDS: FRIENDSHIP, INTERGRITY, EMPATHY, SUPPORT, CONFIDENCE, EQUALITY, COMFORT, DIVERSITY, SOLIDARITY, STRENGTH, VALUE, PEERS



**TODAY I HAVE AN OBLIGATION  
NO LONGER WILL I BE SILENT IF YOU NEED  
HELP**

**SILENCE IS PARTICIPATION  
I REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROBLEM**

**WE'RE ALL DIFFERENT  
BUT WE ALL DESERVE RESPECT  
IF YOU NEED HELP, COME TO ME  
IF I THINK YOU NEED HELP,  
I'M GETTING HELP  
I GOT YOUR BACK!**

**STAND UP** PRODUCED BY ST. MARY BUSINESS SHSM

## IF YOU NEED HELP

### AT SCHOOL:

Chaplain  
Guidance  
Retreat Leaders Teachers  
Teachers  
Administration

### AWAY FROM SCHOOL:

Kids Help Phone  
1-800-668-6868 (24 hours)  
Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health Information  
1-800-463-6273  
Distress Centre  
1-800-452-0688 (24 hours)

**STAND UP** PRODUCED BY ST. MARY BUSINESS SHSM



# St. Mary Newsletter

Vol: #3

April, 2010

St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Community Update

www.stmarycss.ca

## St. Mary Launches First OTF/PIF Environmental Film Festival

Join us May 4th and 5th for the Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) and Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival Series presented by St. Mary Catholic Secondary School and titled **"Make Survival the Only Option"**. This is the International Year of Biodiversity and we're celebrating. The films and student and community presentations are aimed to inspire everyone with an open heart and mind to live their life with a smaller ecological footprint while sustaining the many gifts that we already have to enjoy.

Tuesday's film, titled **"Antarctica Challenge: A Global Warning"**, is a 2009 film directed by Mark Terry of Canada that explores the nature of the continent, its wildlife, and the courageous individuals who have given up the comforts of civilization in order to save it.

On Wednesday, four short films will be shown throughout the evening (many chances to see them all) that should inspire you to learn more and get involved. These films include **"The Green Film"** (2008 - Canada); **"Imush q-uyatl'un"** (2009 - Canada); **"So Far, So Close"** (2008 - France); **"Two and Two"** (2008 - Canada). You will also visit a wide range of

artistic displays and installations prepared by students - these works will stir your heart and mind with the expressions of those young people that are now left to carry the torch for species at risk through the coming generation. Other students will display their hard work in sharing some of the current thinking around environmental and diversity problems of the present and of the ancient past. Our special guest presenters from the community include:

- a) Dr. Nick Eyles of U of T (Scarborough) who will speak on Frenchman's Bay,**
- b) representatives of 'Friends of the Rouge Watershed' and 'Ontario Power Generation' who will reveal their efforts at habitat reclamation,**
- c) and other environmental groups from the community.**


The organizing team thanks 'OTF' and 'PIF' for sponsoring these films and making the event possible. The Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) is the advocate for the teaching profession in Ontario and for its 160,000 teachers. OTF members are full-time, part-time and occasional teachers in all the publicly funded schools in the province—elementary, secondary, public, Catholic and

francophone. Planet in Focus produces Canada's preeminent international environmental film and video festival and presents programs throughout the year across Canada and around the globe.




**Both evenings' events will begin at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary CSS. Plan to come out to join us, get inspired, and make a difference. Your children will thank you some day.**

Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF),  
Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival Series and  
St. Mary Catholic Secondary School PRESENTS

**"MAKE SURVIVAL THE ONLY OPTION"**  
Environmental Film Festival and Student Showcase



7:00 pm - 9:00 pm > St. Mary C.S.S. Cafe  
Tuesday May 4th, 2010 (Feature Film)  
Wednesday May 5th, 2010 (Short Films & Student Displays)  
Price > \$10 (Pass) \$6 (Per Evening)

### REMINDERS

Parent Teacher Interview - April 22, 2010  
PA Day - April 23, 2010

## News From The Principal

As the warmer weather approaches and winter becomes but a memory, the flowers begin to bloom and the birds begin to sing. There is the hope of new life as spring is a time of rebirth and new hope. The hope of forgiveness, the hope of peace, and the hope of eternal life.

In March we celebrated our Multi-cultural night. The Harmony Group students who have been trained for leadership and diversity were instrumental in organizing this powerful celebration of culture. Over 450 people attended this wonderful evening of food, fun and entertainment. In a diverse school such as St. Mary it was wonderful to celebrate

our differences but still be united as a community.

On Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. St. Mary presented "Honouring All Career Pathways". This presentation for parents and students in grades eight through eleven is a wonderful opportunity for parents to be part of their child's education further strengthening the home and school connection.

As mid-term approaches and report cards are sent home on April 16th students receive confirmation from their teachers of the hard work they have put in over the last several months. For others it is a wake-up call. Fear not, there is a still lot of

time left to salvage your semester. The staff here is committed to your success.

On April 22nd St. Mary will be holding our parent teacher Night which is another opportunity for us to gather as a community to further establish the home and school connection. Parents are invited to contact teachers, guidance counselors and vice principals directly should you have any concerns.

***May God continue to bless our school community.***

***Mr. John Mullins,  
Principal***

## School Reach

The intermediate and senior St. Mary Reach Teams, SMART, have been practicing every Tuesday after school since October under the supervision of coaches Mrs. Rollings, Mrs. Faux, Mrs. Richards and Mr. Cuddy. The Durham wide tournaments were held in February. Our rookie intermediate team, consisting of Daniel Myers, Keegan Knight and Connor Chen, performed well and we are expecting great things from them next year. The coaches extend a special thanks

to Jamal Baptiste for all his hard work with this team.

Our senior team (Alex Harold, Axel Soos, Maria Gorgevska, Mark Dorriesfield, Phil Middleton, Jacob Zolotenko, Nick Zeeb, Michelle Crisostomo, Jamal Baptiste, Julia McGeoghan, Elias El-Saikali and Holly Ford) placed third and qualified for the Durham finals held on March 30. The select senior team, consisting of grade 11 students Alex Harold, Axel Soos, Maria Gorgevska, Mark Dorriesfield,

Phil Middleton and Jacob Zolotenko, placed an amazing second overall. This is a particularly impressive feat considering most teams are dominated by grade 12 students. SMART is now awaiting an invitation to the Provincials to be held in Toronto in May. Congratulations SMART! We are proud of you!

***Mrs. Rollings  
Science, Curriculum Chair***



### DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just a reminder that daily announcements are available on the school web site - [www.stmarycss.ca](http://www.stmarycss.ca).

## Arts Department NEWS

The Drama department opened the second semester with the grade 12 drama students competing in the Durham Regional Sears Drama Festival. The students earned an Award of Excellence for the original writing and performance of their piece "The Cell". Over the last few weeks the grade 11 drama students developed a dramatization of the Passion Of Jesus Christ which they performed on Holy Thursday. Congratulations to both the grade 11 and 12 students for their outstanding work.

**Start Spreading the News...** Over 40 theatre, photo and art students will be packing their bags and heading to the big apple for the annual New York Arts trip at the end of April. Students will see two Broadway shows, tour NBC, Central Park, audience for amateur night at the famous Apollo, visit Art Museums, attend mass at the beautiful historic St. Patrick Cathedral, pay respects to the 9/11 sight, and much much more. Have a fantastic time!

**Dance** - The dance students have been busy preparing for a series of competitions as well as beginning to plan for the second and final dance showcase which will close the year in

June. Congratulations to our dancers who participated in "Give Peace a Dance" in Toronto. Stay tuned for the dance competition results which we are convinced will be winning!

**Music** - Music students have both a vocal and instrumental concert coming up this spring; meantime, singers are busy preparing for their trip to Cincinnati, while band students tune up to be ready for their trip to Orlando, Florida. Both our singers and instrumentalists will be performing on their tours and we know they will represent St. Mary with style!

**Visual Arts & Media** - The senior art students have closed their Civic Centre gallery showing of Fresh which met with high praise from the mayor's office and the public. Meantime, outstanding paintings by grade 9 art students have been on display in our front office and guidance office. Art, photography, media and Interior Design students are busy developing environmental projects to be displayed in conjunction with the Science Department's Environmental Film Festival the first week of May.

**SMIT** - And congratulations as well to SMIT; the St. Mary Improv team

had a strong showing, advancing to the second round at the Improv Games which St. Mary hosted.

Café Cabaret The Arts Department will begin auditions for Café Cabaret, a long time tradition at St. Mary that opens the stage to all students who audition a wide range of talent in music, dance and dramatic presentations. Watch for audition notices in the next week.

Stay tuned as well for our upcoming music concerts, dance show, and children's theatre; and finally our year end celebration on June 18th is "Arts Fest". Arts Fest is a night of celebration open to all students who have taken an arts course in any one of our varied arts programs over the past year. Tickets go on sale for Arts Fest in May.

Once again, it is my absolute pleasure to work with such talented artists, students and teachers alike.

**Cathie McDavid,**  
**Fine Arts Curriculum Chair**

*'Holy Thursday' photos below - the grade 11 drama students developed a dramatization of the Passion Of Jesus Christ which they performed on 'Holy Thursday'. Congratulations to both the grade 11 and 12 students for their outstanding work.*



### TICKETS

For additional ticket info for any arts events, please contact the arts office at 905-420-7166 ext. 6416.

## Canada and World Studies/Social Sciences Department

The Canada and World Studies/Social Sciences Department is off to a great start in Semester Two. We would like to welcome our new Social Science and Law teacher – Ms. Shawna Hyland to our department.

Our team of Civics teachers continue to promote the idea of active citizenship with an upcoming Civics Fair in April. At the Fair, Civic students have the opportunity to raise awareness about many of the non-profit organizations in Canada. Students in the Grade 12 Geography class will be building their 3D Cities. The Sociology teachers continue to support student learning with their field trips to C.A.M.H. and the R.O.M.

The department strives to offer new programs for the betterment of our students. We are offering a new grade 12 history course called Adventures in World History (CHM-4E1) where students can learn about a wider range of societies and cultures, examining such things as systems of government, technological development, art and religion.

From all of us in the Canada and World Studies/Social Sciences Department, we wish you a blessed and joyful remainder to the school year.

*John Stanesic*  
*CWS, Curriculum Chair*



## English/Modern Languages Department

### *The Hour Experience*

One of the challenges many secondary school teachers face is the opportunity to show how the content of a course has practical applications in the job field. This semester, the Writer's Craft course was able to see creative writing at work by attending a taping of CBC's 'The Hour with George Stroumboulopoulos'.

Students were exposed to writing techniques used to relay news information in an entertaining and humorous manner during the "Mile a Minute" segment, and created their own version in class the following

week. In addition, students observed the different interviewing techniques utilized by the show's host, whose reputation for creating a relaxed and comfortable ambient while asking probing questions was displayed for the 25 Grade 12 students. Strombo, as he is also known, sat with acclaimed Canadian director, Atom Egoyan, and indie rock musician John Samson, lead singer of The Weakerthans.

The entire experience was one that will remain with the Writer's Craft class for many years to come. Not only did they provide practically the

entire audience participation for the March 23rd taping, but they also got a chance to meet one of the most prolific interviewers on Canadian television. At the end of the show, Strombo graciously stuck around and met with every student for brief chats and photographs, making the experience not only educational but memorable as well. I look forward to making this a regular excursion for future courses.

*Sonya Melim*  
*Teacher*

**CBC**



### REMINDERS

Peru Walk - Friday April 30, 2010

Famine - Friday May 7, 2010

## NEWS FROM GUIDANCE

### UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

> **TBA** – OSAP Presentation.

A workshop for current Grade 12 post-secondary bound students who plan to apply for financial assistance was held in guidance.

> **May 3rd** – the date by which students must confirm through OCAS their acceptance to an Ontario college.

> **May 6th** - College Panel & May 26th - University Panel: Grade 11 students will have the opportunity to attend post-secondary planning workshops. Several liaison officers from Ontario

colleges and universities will be at St. Mary to discuss post-secondary options with our students.

> **May 25th** – the latest date by which all students shall expect a response from an Ontario university

> **May 28th** – the earliest date by which Ontario universities may require a response to an offer of admission

> **June 1st** – Proof of 40 hours of Community Service must be submitted by this date to guidance for students expecting to graduate in June 2010

### SUMMER SCHOOL INFORMATION

> Registration information will be available near the end of May for students who were not successful in one or more courses in the first semester. Parents will receive a phone call from the school the last week of June if their child was unsuccessful in one or more courses in semester two.

> Students who would like to take a new course can also register in late May. They may also have the opportunity to take new courses through eLearning. Information can be obtained through a guidance counsellor.

## COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

More than one hundred and twenty students have applied for Cooperative Education for the 2010 – 2011 school year. These students have been interviewed and the Co-op teachers have started to find them work placements in the community. Parents who work in businesses or organizations that have opportunities for student Co-op placements are asked to contact our Co-op department at 905-420-8508.

Parents and students should be aware that Co-op can count for 2 of the required compulsory credits towards their high school diploma. Information about this new development can be found on the St. Mary web site at [www.stmarycss.ca](http://www.stmarycss.ca) by clicking on **Departments** and then **Cooperative Education**.

Students at St. Mary have continued to choose Co-op as a venue to explore career choices for their future, many of which will require further post-secondary study. Some

students are starting to see career opportunities in apprenticeship areas as well. Below are testimonials from former St. Mary students that show the value of Co-op for students who are contemplating any career pathway.

### Testimonials

*"When I got the opportunity to get a feel for the work world while getting my credits, I jumped in. I truly think it was the most intelligent decision I have ever made. I have learned more in co-op than I have in every year of schooling."* – **School to work student whose placement was with a plumbing company**

*"The first things we learned in co-op at the start is that we have hundreds of different skills which I didn't believe. Now I know it because I*

*have plenty and see that there are plenty more to learn. I didn't just learn about the industry of computer graphics, but I learned how to run a business and how it works."* – **School to college student whose placement was with a multi-media company**

*"I got a part-time job this summer. The manager told me that she chose my resume out of the 100 pile stack. I used the resume you taught me how to do. I think back now and realize that if I did not do co-op I would not be attending the university that I really wanted to go to. Co-op made me realize sooner rather than later that I did not really want to be in a veterinary program."* – **School to university student whose placement was at the Toronto Zoo**

### GUIDANCE

If you have any questions regarding your post secondary education, please book an appointment with your guidance counsellor.

## Business, Computer, & Technological Studies

### **BUSINESS SHSM UPDATE:**

On March 31, 2010, three Business SHSM students, Vanessa De Souza, Curtis Airdrie, and Stephanie Angielczyk, spent the day at the Ministry of Revenue, Strategic Management Services Branch, in Oshawa. This was an "Experiential Learning" opportunity that allowed the students to job shadow Ministry employees and gain a better understanding of career opportunities with the Ministry of Revenue.

On April 29th, 2010, a "Reach Ahead" experience is planned for all Business SHSM students in the form of a trip to Durham College to examine the Business program offered there. The trip is intended to assist students in deciding on their post-secondary pathway and highlight the learning opportunities at the college.

The Department is in the process of setting up a Practice Office to simulate a business environment for the SHSM students. The intention is

to provide the students with hands-on experience in an office setting, catering to the business needs of the school administration and the various departments in the school. We plan to officially open this workplace later in the semester.

**Mary Richards**  
*Business & Tech, Curriculum Chair*

## Up The Creek With A Paddle!

In semester one the grade 12 university/college woodworking class (2 women and 8 men) built a kayak from scratch. When we started the students were unsure we could build anything from a bunch of numbers in a book.

The students learned the woodworking skills of planking the kayak to give it shape. These skills included cutting scarf joints to make the planks long enough, tracing the various shapes onto the planks and attaching the planks to the building mould and to the kayak's bottom.

Eventually the hull was taken off the building form and deck and

interior work were completed. The students learned how to work with modern epoxy adhesives and finishes.

The mahogany trim work gave the students opportunity to use woods that they had not experienced and the opportunity to use routers and hand tools specific to trim work. The final varnishing and painting completed the project. All that was left was to have a final party to celebrate the completion.

One of the students thought he could build a kayak on his own, his answer was, "with a good book of instructions he thought he could."

As a teacher this was what any of us hope for. We offer the opportunity to try new experiences and skills and hope that any of our students are willing to attempt to put them to use. I believe that most of the students enjoyed the class project and I was very happy with the results of the final kayak.

I thank all of the students involved and wish them every success with new projects in their future, whatever it may be.

**Mr. Smyth**  
*Woodworking Teacher*



### REMINDER

We are still accepting used items to alleviate the world's poor.

## Science Department NEWS

### SCIENCE CLINIC:

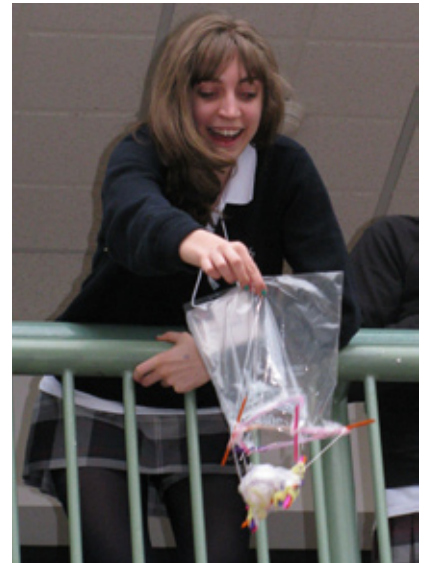
The St. Mary Science Clinic is held every Wednesday after school from 3 to 4pm in room 265. It is staffed by teacher and senior student volunteers. All science students are welcome.

### DCDSB GEMS EVENT:

On March 23, 14 St. Mary grade 9 girls participated in a special event held at Fr. Austin CSS. called GEMS

(Girls Enjoy Math and Science). The day consisted of talks by female role models who work in math and science related fields and a culminating task involving building an impact protector for an egg dropped from the second floor. The "Egg Drop" proved to be an "Egg-citing" end to an inspirational day.

*Mrs. Rollings,*  
*Science, Curriculum Chair*



## Communications Technology

The Communications Technology Classes are moving along nicely as we head into spring. The grade 10s are working on their animation skills and will soon be creating 2D cartoons and stop motion animations in our animation studio! Durham College had their Reel Music festival the week of March 22nd and our grade 11s were able to submit music videos that they shot and edited. They were shown at the college Saturday March 27th to cheering audiences. Up next, working with Flash!

*Ms. Cote*



## News From The MATH Department

Math students at St Mary have been busy writing contests – Math League, Euclid, Fryer, Galois, and Hypatia. In future semesters, interested students should listen for announcements of upcoming contests.

Students who are taking Grade 9 Math this semester will take the EQAO evaluations on two consecutive days in June. Watch for a letter with the actual dates to come home. Please avoid scheduling appointments on those dates because a

portion of the EQAO tests contributes to the final mark in Math.

Math Clinic continues to run from 3.10 to 4.00 pm every Thursday in room 210. Math teachers are available to provide one-on-one help for struggling students.

*Michele Faux*  
*Math Curriculum Chair*

**E=MC<sup>2</sup>**

### REMINDERS

Victoria Day - Monday May 24, 2010

Prom - Friday June 11, 2010

Exams - June 22 - 28, 2010