

THE VOICE

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2006

HOME OF THE MONARCHS • VISIT www.stmarycss.ca



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Mr. Gogolek's class win's top prize for the school wide pumpkin cutting contest. Thanks student council for a successful non-uniform day and Halloween festivities.

Principal's Message

So far this semester I have attended a senior History class where students assumed the roles of different nineteenth century philosophers and engaged in a complex debate about philosophical ideas. I have observed the enthusiasm of students in a senior Religion class as they planned to raise contributions for Covenant House and I have visited a Computer Technology Life Skills class where students work on the production of school publications like this newsletter. Next week I will visit students whose co-op education placements take them each day to Pickering Town Centre. At St. Mary a high school principal learns something new everyday.

In many ways our school is like a large village. Numbers offer an interesting insight into the daily life at St. Mary. This year we have 1559 students, 106 teachers (ten of those teachers are new to the school), 1 chaplain, 13 Educational Assistants, 5 secretaries, 9 custodians and 4 cafeteria staff. Ultimately our work here leads students out into the larger world. At an information night last week for parents of grade twelve students, Mr. Thomas the Curriculum Chair of Guidance told parents that last year's grade 12 class included 149 students with confirmed university placements, 110 students with confirmed college placements and 60 students who returned to school. That same week I received a letter naming 16 students who last year won the Queen Elizabeth Aiming for the Top Scholarships for outstanding academic achievement in their final year of high school.

In such a large school the occasions when we all come together in community are especially important. One of the most moving events this semester took place during

Thanksgiving when our Student Retreat Leaders prepared and led our liturgical celebration. I was reminded, during that beautiful liturgy, of the important contribution student leaders make in our school. The Student Council has already organised a highly energetic Spirit Week and is now planning the year's fund-raising activities for a variety of charities in the local community. Just recently our Peer Mediators completed a refresher course in conflict mediation. We plan to introduce a new "Harmony" program that will offer students a Diversity Leadership Certificate.

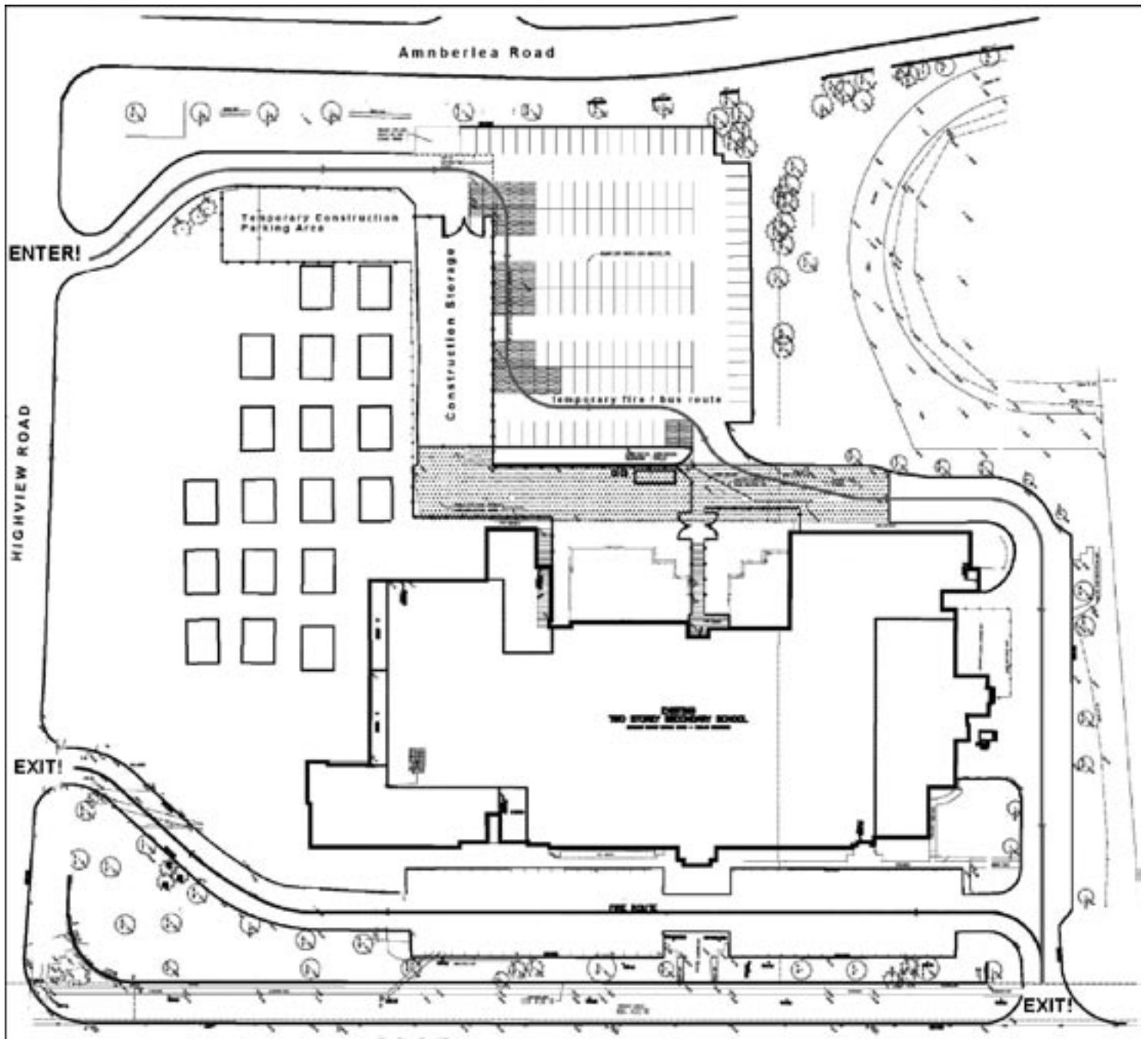
This newsletter illuminates some of the varied experiences during any given day at the school – the academic learning, the educational trips in our local community, the spiritual work, the arts and drama events, the sports teams and the academic support clinics offered before or after school. In the midst of all this activity, we acknowledge the fortitude of parents and the students who rely on public transit and who have faced difficulties due to the transit strike.

This year, in late November, work will begin on a ten-classroom addition to the school. This work should be finished in June 2007 and in the summer of 2007 renovations are planned for the Main Office and the Guidance Department. A map of the plans is included in the newsletter.

We look forward to an exciting, successful school year and hope to see many parents at our Parent Teacher Night on November 16th. Amare et Servire!

Ms. M. Curran,
Principal

St. Mary Expansion Construction November 2006



Traffic congestion and student safety are always a concern at St. Mary. With the current bus strike and impending construction, the need to change our traffic flow becomes a priority.

To allow our buses to pick up and release students in a safe and timely manner, to facilitate parents as best we can, and to accommodate our construction crews, we will be changing our lanes to a "one way" system. We encourage parents to pick up and drop off students at the back of the school using Highview Road entrance behind the portables.

As always, student safety comes first and we appreciate your assistance and patience.

J. Finan,
Vice Principal

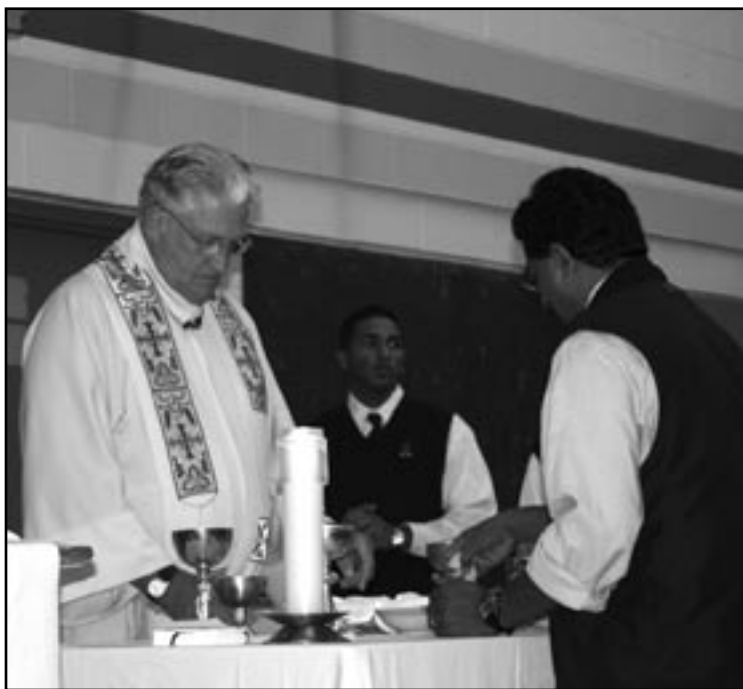
From the desk of the Chaplain

I am going through some of the evaluations of a grade nine retreat received from students, as I am writing this message to you. A typical one reads, "I really enjoyed my day here at the retreat. It got me relaxed and it got me thinking of things that have gone on through out my life. All the leaders did a good job helping us. Thanks." Another one read "During the meditation I was very relaxed and I got to think about things in my life." Short and to the point.

Our planning of the grade nine retreats started last year with the start of the recruitment of about 40 leaders from grades 12 and 11. We took them away on an overnight retreat to Mary Grove camp in Penetanguishine. We spent time in community prayer and meditation. We reflected on how we can make spirituality relevant for our grade nines. These leaders planned the grade nine retreats. And I am excited to say that our grade nines love their retreat.

We often listen too much to the voices of negativity when it comes to Faith and teenagers. Given the encouragement, guidance and affirmation, these young leaders are outstanding in their proclamation of their belief in God to their peers, many times far more effectively than adults. This is just one example of the Evangelizing work done in your catholic high school. The same group also organized a Thanksgiving liturgy for the whole school with our supervision. Their peers really loved it. I have discovered that God is very active in our community through these inspiring young people. If we are able to see as Christ sees, I have no doubt we can see that "the father is at work without rest"

Tomy Valookaran. B.Com., S.T.B., M.Div.



Words from the Student Council

Ladies and Gentlemen, the year '06 is coming close to an end, and the year '07 is coming even faster. As the school year goes by, the incredible tidal wave only known better as Student Council is coming full force. The only expectation is a lot more spirit and a lot more talent. Student Council's mission this year is not only serving the student body best they can, but to create an incredibly memorable one too. From the past accomplishments of the Grade Nine Orientation, the rampaging Spirit Week, and finally to the very outrageous Spirit Assembly, what more is there to expect? What could possibly be on the list of things to do for these characters? Well, the "suits" from downtown will only let us release so much information up front, but what we can say is that there will be laughing, there will be celebration and yes, there will be DANCE! This school year will not be easy. There will be long nights of planning by candlelight and drinking Red Bull. There will be intensive scientific studies conducted and the occasional glimpse of a passing star, but it is the school community of St. Mary's itself that we will look for inspiration.

It is an honour and a dream to work for such an incredible population and it is with the support of staff, students, volunteers, and administration that we can create a revolution of the unforgettable. In short St. Mary's, we will not let you down! You Rock, Don't Ever Change!

Yours Truly, STUDENT COUNCIL!



St. Mary C.S.S. Council

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Elections were held at our September meeting and I would like to present your School Council this year.

Chair - Carol Pistchik
Vice Chair - Mary Joe Kotsopoulos
Treasurer - Doris Foden
Secretary - Patty Melvin/Joe Pessoa
Principal - Mrs. Curran
Teacher Rep - Mrs. Pontello
Parish Rep - Mr. Valookaran
Community Rep - Rosanna Garcia

Parents

Theresa Herrington
Brenda Bartholomew
Lyvia McKeegan
Linda Hunt
Mary Michael
Colin Hill
Elaine Dunn
Liz Dell
Sue Robinson
Kelly Masse

The Ministry of Education has set up the School Council as an advisory group and we would like to invite all parents and guardians to attend the meetings, which are held the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm, in the Resource Centre (school library). The exact dates are on our web site. If you should have any concerns, which you feel the council can be of assistance, please feel free to contact any of us through the school.

The School Council is pleased to support the school Outreach Program, which assists needy families in our community. A SILENT AUCTION will be held during the evening of the Parent Teacher Interviews on November 16th. Be sure to drop by and take a look, make a bid and enjoy coffee, tea, and a snack. Donations for this event would be greatly appreciated, please leave donations at the office.

The School Council holds a USED UNIFORM SALE in the month of August. If anyone has uniform items that your child has outgrown, please drop them off at the school office for the Used Uniform Sale this year. We also ask the Grade 12 students to keep the school in mind when you are finished with your uniforms in June.

The School Website - www.stmarycss.ca - has a section for Parents. Click on the Parents Tab and then the School Council Tab for up to date information regarding the school council. We have posted our Constitution, the minutes from the last meeting, and Agenda items along with "Nice to Know Info" for Parents. Please check it out!

Our next meeting will be held on November 7, 2006, 7:00 pm in the Resource Centre (school library). Everyone is welcome to be an active participant and voice their opinions and suggestions regarding education and our school community. Please come out and join us.

Carol Pistchik, Chair

Dear St. Mary Parents

Last summer I had the opportunity to travel to Peru. The purpose of the trip was to establish contact with local community groups and organizations with the hope of developing a social solidarity program for St. Mary. During my stay in South America I forged links with several groups and I have returned to school this year determined to share my experiences and passion with my students.

After several conversations with my classes and ex-students, we have decided to launch a fundraising campaign. The money raised will go to three groups. The first group is called Cusco Coraje, which is an association formed by disabled people who, unfortunately, receive very little support from the Peruvian government. The second group is an indigenous community in desperate need of financial aid. Finally, the fundraising will also support several projects working at the grass roots level in schools throughout Cusco and the surrounding region.

The students have identified a wide range of fundraising possibilities. The first part of the campaign is called Pennies for Thoughts. We will be asking everybody to send us their extra pennies, nickels and dimes. Our goal is \$5000. If you have any loose change in your purses, your penny jars or underneath the cushions in your couches, we would be more than happy to put them to good use.

This campaign has given the students the opportunity to develop a sense of social and global solidarity. Please join us in our quest to make the world a better place for our brothers and sisters in Peru.

**Sincerely,
Andrew McLaughlin**



Library/Resource Centre From the Circulation Desk

Wow! What a great and incredibly busy start to the year. I am excited to report that our conversion of Accelerated Reader to the web-based Renaissance Place has been, although slow, successful. Our students are mastering it quite nicely and, I must say, we are going through candy like crazy (ask your sons and daughters about that).

We have been running some classes through the STAR Reader which will provide your son or daughter with their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which is designed to help the students make appropriate reading choices for their reading level and which, in theory, and hopefully in practice, will result in better performance on the AR quizzes. It has been a very steep learning curve for Ms. Richards and myself, but we have progressed well and so have the students.

Many, many classes have been making use of our facility and doing some great research. We would like to remind students to use the school web-site and the links provided there to various databases such as SIRS and e-library which also have remote access (from home).

The grade 9 students have been coming in for their orientations to the library, as well and we hope they will return many more times to find research and recreational reading materials.

Just a reminder that the library/resource centre is open both before and after school (8:30 AM until, usually, but not on Fridays, approximately 4:00 PM).

Schoolreach (SMART) News

By now, the Schoolreach teams have begun practicing. We are fielding both a Senior and an Intermediate team. Students who may be interested are invited to join us on practice nights in the Library. This is an excellent opportunity for students to compete with students from other schools in a non-physical (sports) activity. We compete with questions and knowledge, in a way that is similar to Jeopardy. If your son or daughter is interested, have them check the signs on the Library windows for practice times.

Schoolreach and M&M's Meatshop

The Schoolreach teams desperately need your help! We need funds in order to be able to compete. There are considerable costs involved in having competitive teams. The M&M's Meatshop on Kingston Road between Dixie and Liverpool runs a fundraising program wherein when you shop, a portion of every sale goes to the Schoolreach team. All you need to do is to tell the cashier that you are supporting St. Mary and the funds will be directed. We thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued support for this year and years to come.

News from the Math Department

The St Mary Math Department would like to welcome three teachers who are new to our department: Mrs. B. Murphy, Ms. S. Shea, and Mr. M. Milan. We also welcome back Mr. J. Shea.

Math Clinic is up and running. Students can get extra help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3.00 to 4.00 in Room 231 and at 8.30 Wednesday mornings in Room 131. Peer tutors are also available before school in Program Support.

Grade 9 students will soon be preparing for EQAO testing. A big help will be the new Grade 9 textbooks that will soon be in use for both Grade 9 Academic and Applied Math classes. Our Grade 9 teachers look forward to using these new resources.

**Michele Faux
Interim Curriculum Chair
Mathematics Department**

$E = MC^2$

Math @ St. Mary = Cool²

St. Mary Fall Sports Snapshots



NEWS FROM GUIDANCE

This fall has been a busy time in the guidance office of our school. Firstly, we held many workshops and presentations for our college and university bound students. They provided the opportunity for students to meet representatives from several of the Ontario universities and colleges. As well, students had opportunities to attend college and university fairs where they could meet representatives from other provinces and from the United States. As well, on October 19th we held a special post-secondary planning night for parents who have children in grade 12 this year.

On October 18th, a workshop was held for about 35 grade 11 and 12 students who have shown interest in pursuing a career in the Skilled Trades. Dave Chambers, who is the consultant in charge of the apprenticeship programs at our school board, provided very valuable information for our students. Students were also invited to attend an open house at Durham College – School of Skilled Trades which was held on November 2nd.

The guidance department organized the "Take Our Kids To Work" day for our grade nine students which took place on November 1st. On this day students had the opportunity to experience a day in the work environment of a relative, neighbour, or a family friend. On this same day, St. Mary hosted the annual "Grade Eight Visits" where students from our associate schools came to St. Mary to be a high school student for part of the day. From the responses we have received, both events were a tremendous success.

Is your child looking for a job, volunteer work, or leadership opportunities? The guidance staff can point him/her in the right direction. "Encounters with Canada" is a one week experience that takes place in Ottawa where over 100 students from across Canada meet to participate in activities related to themes such as Science & Technology, Arts & Culture, Sports, Law, Journalism and Canada Remembers. This is a tremendous opportunity for students. For information on this and other leadership programs students are asked to see their guidance counsellor.

Science Department News

The new school year brings a host of new challenges and experiences for St. Mary Science Students.

On October 25, some of our grade 12 Chemistry students will be attending the second annual Energy and the Environment Day at UOIT. In this presentation, given by some of Canada's foremost researchers, the students will find out how our use of energy resources has caused pollution and changed weather systems. They will also hear about the current research being carried out to reduce and reverse these effects.

In Physics, the grade 11 students will soon be starting to build their mini roller coasters. This project was a great success last year thanks in part to tremendous parent support. We are looking forward to seeing the finished products in early January.

Look and listen for events involving Science in Action, the extracurricular group for students interested in science and the environment.

The teachers of the Science Department are always busy preparing an exciting year of science for their students in the form of projects, field trips, workshops and contests. Be sure to ask your child what is happening in his/her science class!



News from the Arts Department

The Arts Department is in full swing at St. Mary with a wide array of activities and initiatives underway. Arts at St. Mary, for those students and parents new to the school, includes a full program in the Visual Arts, Photographic Arts, Graphic and Media Arts, Instrumental and Vocal Music, a full Dance Program, Dramatic Arts, Religion through the Arts at the grade 10 level and Interdisciplinary Arts at the grade 12 level. The department is staffed by an exceptionally talented faculty with diverse backgrounds and experience in both the classroom and the Arts/Media and Performance industry.

This fall students in all the disciplines are busy rehearsing and preparing for a variety of initiatives, including upcoming music concerts, dance recitals and dance competitions, planned drama performance showcases, liturgy and assembly presentations, and plans for the visual art gallery exhibit. Watch for these many events as the year unfolds!

Experiencing the professional Arts world is a crucial element to the development of student artists and the department is fortunate to have teachers and administration who support excursions and workshops to promote student learning and meet each young learner's passion for his or her art form. To date students have participated in a variety of trips and workshops including the AGO, local galleries, pottery studios, Stratford to see "Oliver", and Dance work-shops and performance at Harborfront. The department is very excited about the three main trips for Theatre, Dance and Music, planned in second semester. Dance students will be traveling to Los Angeles in February to participate in an exciting opportunity to dance at Hollywood's Performance Edge studio. Theatre students will travel to New York in May for a fantastic Broadway experience; and also in May, Music students will be participating in a festival on the East Coast in Halifax. (Students and parents take note--we have two spots left for qualified dancers for the L.A. trip and two spots left for the New York trip; see Ms McDavid for information!)

Once again, Arts at St. Mary rocks!!
Cathie McDavid, Department Chair



News from the Music Department

Well, we are well on our way into the school year, and the music department has been extremely busy! So far we have had three fundraisers to raise money for this year's music trip. We have sold "Entertainment" books, had a BBQ, and a car wash all in the past month. The "Entertainment" fundraiser was extremely successful, as we sold approximately 1500 books!

Tentatively, our next fundraiser will be a PLAY-A-THON to be held on Thursday, November 16 from 8:30am-6:30pm. That's right, ten hours of non-stop music. Parents will be able to hear musical groups perform in the atrium while getting ready to see their son and daughter's teachers for Parent-Teacher Interview Night. Come out and support the music department as we fundraise for our competition in Nova Scotia in May.

The grade nine and grade ten beginner instrumentalists will be traveling to the Roy Thompson Hall on Thursday, November 9th to see the Toronto Symphony Orchestra perform. The highlights of this performance will include Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition", and Schubert's famous "Unfinished Symphony". The way these beginners are playing this year, it won't be long before they sound as good as the TSO!

Our vocal department has been busy performing at the school's opening Mass as well as our Thanksgiving Liturgy. Mrs. Yukich and the singers have done a wonderful job thus far and their talents are greatly appreciated.

Speaking of performing, our Christmas concert is also quickly approaching. It is on Sunday, December 10th, 2006 from 2-4pm at the school. You will hear our Junior band (92 members strong), our grade 10 intermediate band, our senior concert band, our senior jazz band, our St. Mary Singers, and our Vocal Jazz groups! Come out and enjoy some of the sounds of the season as well as pieces we have worked on throughout the semester.

Finally, all our musical groups will be traveling to our associate elementary schools to perform for their senior level students (gr.6-8) in order to encourage the continued growth of our program. The dates of these performances are December 4th, 12th, and 15th. These performances have been very successful over the past eight years in helping kids realize the value of having music as part of their high school experience.

The music department would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support. We look forward to your continued support as we prepare our students for competitions such as Kiwanis, and MusicFest in February, as well as the Atlantic Band Festival in May.

Modern Languages

Hola! Bonjour! We are proud to announce that the Modern Languages Department is booming here at St. Mary! We have the highest ever enrolment in our grade 10 French and Spanish programs! We also would like to welcome two new French teachers to St. Mary, Ms. Wall and Mrs. Bigioni.

The Modern Language teachers always strive to make it fun and interesting for students. That is definitely the case with Mrs. Leandro's grade 10 Spanish class going to Plaza Flamingo for salsa dance lessons. They will also be going to Kensington Market for a cultural experience and meal!

Mr. Jussaume has an excursion planned to go to one of our favourite French restaurants, L'Escargot at the end of October. The Grade 10 and 11 French classes may also be experiencing the French culinary expertise at Le Papillon.

Quebec may be a destination for the new year. Listen to announcements for updates. This possible trip would be hosted by Miss Zeenaeme and Miss Raponi.

The French Connection is up and running with the help of Miss Zeenaeme and Ms.Wall. It is for those students willing to try their hand at speaking French. It is a relaxed and fun atmosphere where students help each other reach their potential as second language French speakers. We always have snacks and we try to do fun activities such as scavenger hunts, watching movies, and going on excursions. Perhaps one day soon we will be making crêpes! All are welcome.

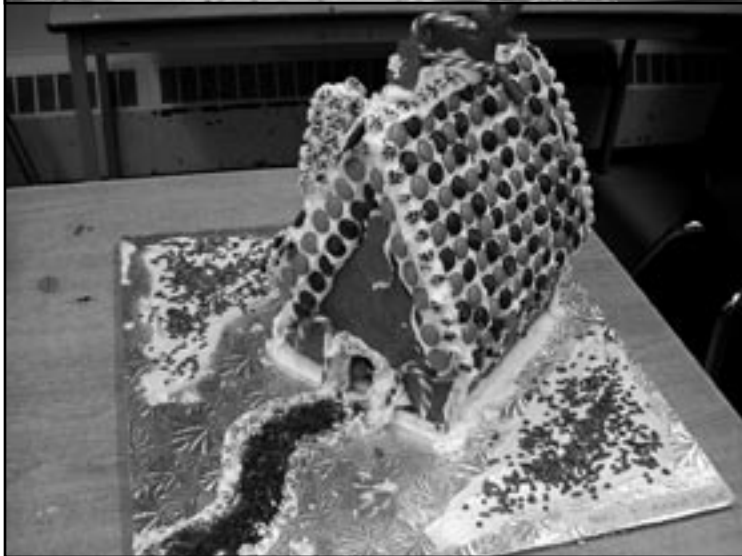
For students needing extra help, it is available at our "French Clinics". These are held during the lunches in room 701 (ESL room) and on Tuesdays after school in room 208. Students may also speak with their teachers for alternate solutions.

Students considering pursuing French in a different way should look into a possible new course to be offered next year! This course is for those students wishing to speak French in various situations and having a workable use of this language!

Coming back to St. Mary is Italian! Keep an ear open for the opportunity to take Italian next year! Chiao!

Food Frenzy

Sweet aromas are permeating the halls of St. Mary as the culinary talents of the students in the Food Labs are being developed. In several weeks students will begin to design, bake, and decorate gingerbread houses, a much anticipated event. Look forward to these unique and delicious designs!



How Smart Are We?

The Grade 11 Introduction to Psychology, Sociology, & Anthropology classes spent a fascinating day at the Royal Ontario Museum investigating human evolution. The morning was rich with discovery as the students participated in a lab working with human and replica skulls. They also had the opportunity to handle a 750,000 year old tool. Everyone left with a greater appreciation of how humans have developed and adapted to the environment.

Canadian and World Studies/Social Sciences

The Canadian and World Studies/Social Sciences Department is pleased to be back in action. As one of the largest and most diverse departments in the school, we are always looking to enhance our programs and course selections. Teachers are working hard to incorporate new courses of study such as grade 11 Physical Geography and grade 12 Black Studies into our program. Our department is also "expanding" in the near future with new babies on the horizon. Congratulations to Jack Cecillon, John Stanesic and their respective families. The Canadian and World Studies/Social Science Department will continue to have their students participate in highly educational field trips highlighted by the history field trip to Vimy Ridge, France to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Canada's heroic contribution in winning this great battle in World War One.



Religion Department

In September, Mr. Valookaran lead 4 teachers (Ms. Buencamino, Mr. Gogolek, Mrs. Minardi and Mrs. Wilson-Clarke) and 35 grade eleven and twelve students from St. Mary up to Marygrove Camp in Penatanguishene for a two day retreat in order to train these students to become leaders to conduct or assist with the grade nine, ten and eleven retreats at Manresa Retreat Centre. Special thanks to Father Dave Norris for conducting the commissioning mass and for his general good humour.

Grade 9:

Our retreat program is underway under the direction of Mr. Valookaran and the retreat leaders.

Grade 10:

All our grade 10 classes are scheduled to engage in a Service Trip to Scott Mission in Toronto (arranged by Ms. Stevers) and also their retreat at Manresa.

Grade 11:

Our grade 11 students will be going on Temple Tours in December arranged by Mr. Morra.

Grade 12:

All of the 4M1 level students attended a UNICEF presentation on October 23rd (arranged by Mrs. Hudson) on Social Justice. Our 4O1 level students will be engaged in service trip to the Scott Mission in Toronto.

**Yours in Christ,
Ian Gogolek**



BUSINESS, COMPUTER, & TECHNOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

The department is enjoying a smooth start to the 2006-2007 academic year.

We are delighted to welcome three new teachers into the department: **Ms. Olivia Rotheram** – who is teaching the grade 11 Entrepreneurship course. **Ms. Michelle Cote** and **Mr. Joel Pisani** - who are each teaching a grade 11 Communications Technology course.

The department also welcomes back its veteran teachers who will be teaching the following courses in first semester:

Mr. V. Belmonte - Gr. 12 Economics,
Gr. 12 Organizational Behaviour & Human Resources
Mr. B. Chen - Gr. 10 Introduction to Business,
Gr. 11 Introduction to Financial Accounting,
Gr. 11 Introduction to Marketing
Mr. P. McGrady - Gr. 9 Introduction to Information Technology in Business, Gr. 11 Information Technology Applications in Business, Gr. 12 Organizational Studies: Managing a Small Business
Mr. B. O'Connor - Gr. 10 introduction to Information & Technology in Business, Gr. 11 & 12 Computer & Information Science
Mr. V. Sorbilli - Gr. 10, 11, 12 Transportation Technology
Mr. N. Smyth - Gr. 10, 12 Communications Technology
Mr. P. Hooftman - Gr. 9 Integrated Technologies,
Gr. 10, 11 Technological Design
Mr. W. Klowak - Gr. 12 Technological Design
Ms. M. Richards - Gr. 12 International Business (Curriculum Chair)

The Business area is excited to announce the introduction of a new grade 12 course, International Business, which will introduce our students to the global marketplace. There are two sections of this course scheduled this year, one in each semester.

Congratulations to the students in Transportation Technology. As a culmination activity last June, they built a mobile bar-b-que which they nicknamed – the Car-b-que. They celebrated its completion by hosting a year-end bar-b-que for all the Tech students.

Old Cars Wanted:

Mr. V. Sorbilli in Transportation Technology would welcome the donation of any old car (as long as it has some life in it) to be used by his students for their hands-on projects.

Program Support News

Program Support is fully functional for the 2006/2007 school year. The department is already receiving a steady flow of students. Program Support is located in the Northwest wing of the school in Room 118. It serves as a quiet and relaxed environment for students who require remediation, a quiet place to write a test, complete homework, or any other sort of help. During the day, the room is run by Program Support teachers with the assistance of peer tutors who help out with the students requiring assistance.

Grade	Program Support Teacher
9	Mrs. Singh-Charan, Mr. Ing
10	Mr. Murphy
11	Mr. Loudfoot
12	Ms. DeLauretis
Curriculum Chair	Mrs. Ryder
Returning E.A.'s	Mr. Fedyna, Ms. McNabb
New E.A.'s	Ms. Becky Carson Ms. Renee Laroque Ms. Heather Seabright Ms. Kelleigh Oldman Mr. Keith Trolley Mr. Erik Scott



Thanks...Special thanks to Mr. Pisani and his Computer Life Skills course for putting together our newsletter of the year. Look out for the next edition of the school newsletter in the final semester report cards. Please visit the school website at www.stmarycss.ca for additional school information and events.