



# St. Mary's Catholic School May 2023 Newsletter

Check out our website: [www.stmarysschool.ca](http://www.stmarysschool.ca)

Dear St. Mary's School Community:

I have decided to retire from my Principalship at the end of my contract on August 31, 2023. It is said that 'the soul knows when a chapter is about to close' and I feel in my heart that it is time for a change. Since my hiring in the fall of 2007, I remain grateful for the lessons, challenges, and opportunities this position has provided. St. Mary's School is a gift and now it is time it be passed on to another.

There is something special about Catholic schools. At St. Mary's, as I suspect is true of other Catholic schools, there is a tangible 'presence' in the physical school building. Everyone feels it. This spirit embodies love and seems to take care of everyone associated with the school. Not surprisingly, this spirit also throws us curveballs at an alarming rate! These are all blessings and opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. I can say without question, that this experience has changed my life for the better.

Personally, it is time for my husband and I to be more available and present for our elderly parents on the east coast.

I wish to express my gratitude to the staff and parents for their support and leadership over the years. When the new principal is hired, we will let you know.

Happily, in faith...

Jerelynn MacNeil  
Principal  
St. Mary's Catholic Independent School



First Reconciliation: (L to R)  
Malcolm Miller, Father Aaron,  
& Isaac Johnson



## First Holy Communion May 13, 2023



Isaac Johnson & Malcolm Miller with  
Father Aaron & Bishop Bittman

## Class Configurations and teaching assignment for 2023-24

As of now, the following is in place for teaching assignments for next year. We will update this in the June newsletter.



Kindergarten: Ms. Shaw

Grade 1: Ms. Carmelo & Mrs. Quinn

Grade 2/3: Mrs. Merz

Grade 3/4: New teacher (TBD)

Grade 4/5: Mrs. Denegri

Grade 6: Mrs. Gallina



### Retiring teachers:

Mr. Cameron (Band) 37 amazing years!!!

Mrs. Loucks (Educational Assistant)

RETIREMENT  
*is a journey not a*  
DESTINATION



We are looking to hire a full time teacher.

**Please spread the word!**

## School Supplies for 2023-24:

Grade 1: This class will have communal supplies and the teacher will be ordering on the parent's behalf. The only exception is parents are responsible for backpacks, water bottle, inside runners, and headphones for the computer lab.

Grades 2-6 will be able to order school supplies online at

The information will be sent to you in June. This company is great and their products are excellent.



# KAHLIL GIBRAN

## *On Children*

Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them,  
but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living  
arrows are sent forth.  
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,  
and He bends you with His might  
that His arrows may go swift and far.  
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;  
For even as He loves the arrow that flies,  
so He loves also the bow that is stable.

12.

**Sunday, May 14th**

**Happy**

**Mother's Day**

**to all of the Moms from the  
students and staff at  
St. Mary's School**



### **REMINDER TO PARENTS:**

**NO SCHOOL:  
Friday, May 19th  
(Non-Instructional Day)  
Monday, May 22nd -stat**



***There is nothing more  
beautiful than when someone  
is patient with us.***



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MAXIMUM  
**30**

08:00 - 16:30  
SCHOOL DAYS

### Important Notice to Parents:

There are speed  
zones placed on 4th  
Street South. Just a  
reminder to please  
slow down.

## Kindergarten Orientation

The new class of 2023-2024  
Kindergarten students will be  
visiting our school on  
**Thursday, May 18th**  
at 9:00 - 9:45 AM

Please give a big welcome to our  
little visitors if you see them  
in the hallway.



## Prayers in May- It is the month of Mary

**May - We celebrate our blessed Mother Mary!** Every May we have a school assembly called 'The Living Rosary'. We will host this on May 18th at 11:00 AM. We replicate the Rosary in that we assign students the various roles in the prayer. It is a way to pray, to model the Rosary, and communal prayer.

Did you know that the power of prayer has been proven to have an impact when large groups of people join together to pray, to focus their collective energy on the same cause? (Lynn McTaggart, *The Peace Intention Experiments*). Praying is definitely more effective than worrying and so we teach children the power of prayer: a tool for life. Communal prayer vs individual prayer.

May is also when we celebrate moms and the incredible job they have! Mother Teresa worked tirelessly for the poor. Most moms work tirelessly for their family on a daily basis. Children learn to love at home and it starts with a smile and with family. Two of Mother Teresa's quotes that demonstrate her understanding of the importance of family include:

*"Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love. ..."*

*"Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do...but how much love we put in that action."*

The power of simple eye contact and a smile is scientifically proven to be critical to the emotional development of a child beginning from birth. A baby, whose mother is a present, but a distracted caregiver or present but under significant stress, may not provide proper attunement. Attunement is a critical process by which the parent is 'tuned in' to the child's emotional needs. This baby may not receive sufficient smiles or be given enough meaningful eye contact even though the parent is close by. Research shows that this baby is likely to have emotional challenges later in life. According to author Dr. Gabor Mate's book "When the Body Says No", this is not referencing a 'lack of parental love' but rather a void in the baby's perception of being seen, understood, empathized with and 'got' on an emotional level". This subtle lack of contact results in the child feeling unloved or that they are not worthy of love. It's incredible to reflect on the importance of the parent-child bond. Parents have been gifted with the most important job: love! Every single day for life.

This month, we salute all parents and caregivers! Inherently, you are all beautiful teachers.

Jerelynn MacNeil, Principal



*Congratulations!*

to all St. Mary's students who participated in the "Festival of Arts" and won awards!

## **St. Mary's PSG Update - May 2023**

We're in the home stretch until summer vacation is upon us! And PSG has so many fun things to fit in before then.

**Hot Lunch** for this month will be on **Friday, May 5th** with **Boston Pizza** and **Domino's Pizza**. As always, we appreciate any parent volunteers who can come help serve. We meet in the school kitchen at 12:10pm. Sign up is on the PSG Facebook page.

**PSG's Spring Flower Basket Fundraiser** has been a great success! **Flower basket pickup will be just in time for Mother's Day on Tuesday, May 9th**. Additional details regarding pickup times will be posted on the PSG Facebook page. Huge thanks to **Jenna Simoes** for spearheading this fundraiser.

PSG is hosting another **Starbucks School Morning Coffee Time** on **Thursday, May 18th at 8:20am** to coincide with Kindergarten Orientation! Please come join us for some delicious coffee before you start your day and say hello to some future St. Mary's families!

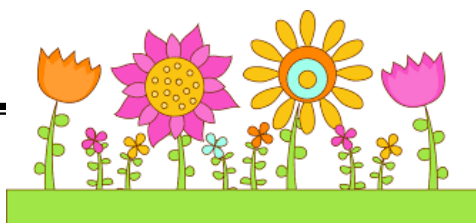
The annual **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 24th at 12:00pm**. As in past years, we are requesting parents' help by contributing a salad/dessert/appetizer/entrée for the luncheon, which can be dropped off that morning in the school kitchen. A post will be going up on the PSG Facebook page where you can comment on what sort of food item you will be providing. In the past, we've received brownies, chicken noodle soup, Caesar salad, devilled eggs – we are appreciative of whatever tasty item you provide!

PSG is also planning to host our **Annual Last Day of School BBQ on Friday, June 23rd** directly after dismissal. This is a fun event for the whole St. Mary's community to celebrate the beginning of summer! As always, parents and siblings are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Our next **PSG meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16th at 6:30pm** at the school. All St. Mary's parents are welcome to come attend! We love to see new faces!



**Courtney Magro**  
**PSG Chair**





# Teaching human anatomy outdoors



"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished!"







# Sister Ralph Talent Night



Thanks to all students who participated in the Sister Ralph Talent Night. It was a huge success!

## New Project at St. Mary's



### We are making a garden!

Our school garden is in progress! We plan on incorporating this into our learning next year! The fence should go up in the next few weeks!

