

584 Stafford Street
Port Elgin, Ontario

Saint Joseph's News
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Principal: Keith Walsh

Superintendent: Mrs Cathy DeGoey
Trustee: Michael Lemmie

Secretary: Kelly MacArthur Chair of School Council: Lisa Marshall and Shannon Quennell

Our school community strives to promote love and respect for God, self and others, while fostering lifelong learning and celebrating Catholic faith, traditions and values.



Grade 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

Grade 8 Parent and Student Information Nights will be held at St. Mary's High School this coming January. Dates are Thursday, January 9th and Tuesday, January 14th, 2020. All parents of Grade 8 students are encouraged to attend one of these evening sessions to learn more about St. Mary's High School, programs, diploma requirements and course options.

Let's Learn Clinic

We had a great turnout at our Kindergarten Registration Clinic on Wednesday, October 24th. There were a number of groups set up in the gym who presented to our 2019-2020 kindergartners and their parents. Right now, we have upwards of over 20 students registered! We thank all of those students and parents who attended, as well as the presenters and St. Joseph's staff. This is an important first step in the Catholic education of these young boys and girls. Thank you to all.



GREEN NEWS GREEN TEAM

As you prepare for Christmas, think about making gifts out of recyclable materials instead of buying them. There is an endless supply of really neat recycled gifts ideas (ie. scarves, bracelets, bags, doll clothes, etc. out of old shirts, wall decorations out of paper rolls, votive holders out of jars, the possibilities are endless!



Make sure to plug your Christmas tree and indoor and outdoor Christmas lights into timers. They are inexpensive and easy to set and will keep you from wasting energy by accidentally leaving lights on all night.

December Assembly

Thursday, December 19th at 2:00

Please, don't forget to use our 24 hr Safe Arrival Program -389-5495 before 9:00 am whenever your child is away from school. This is a program that we have in place to ensure the safety of our students. As well, when you call, the Health Unit has asked us to track the type of sickness. Please provide that information when you call if applicable. The Safe Arrival Number is an answering machine that will be checked by Mrs. MacArthur prior to the start of the school day. Many thanks!

Virtue of the Month: Hope
Please discuss with your child/ren!

Allergy Awareness for December

Health Canada refers to the following as the "ten priority allergens": eggs, milk, mustard, peanuts, seafood, sesame, soy, sulphites, tree nuts, and wheat. Seafood refers to fish, crustaceans, and shellfish. The tree nut category includes nine specific tree nuts: almonds, brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachio nuts, and walnuts. Sulphites contained in foods such as sausages, dried fruit, and breads can cause allergic-type symptoms. Finally, "wheat" includes triticale, a grain that is a cross between wheat and rye.



APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

As the weather gets colder, please ensure that your children are adequately dressed before sending them off to school. It is better to be overdressed than underdressed. We also strongly recommend that you label your children's mittens, hats etc. in order to help us identify items as they are found. Each week, we collect a large number of unidentified hats and mittens that find their way to the Salvation Army if they are not claimed. If your son or daughter loses items, please come in and visit our lost and found section in the school. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.



Drop-off at St. Josephs School

Parents/guardians, we have had some complaints recently about parents pulling into the bus drop-off zone in the morning. As noted previously, this often blocks busses pulling in. As well, it is not safe for our students to be walking in front of busses. We had a near miss last week and so are very concerned about that practise. We know that it only takes a few seconds to drop off, however, it is risky behaviour. Instead we ask that you drop off your children on Gustavus Street, away from the bus zone. Thank you for your understanding.



Students and staff are busy preparing for our upcoming school Christmas concert. The date has been set for Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 PM. There will be a rehearsal that afternoon at 1:30 PM. Parents, grandparents, relatives and friends are welcome to join us at that time as well to help alleviate the high numbers we anticipate for that evening. The Snow date has been set for Thursday, December 12th at 6:30. We look forward to a fun evening to help celebrate the birth of Christ with you. See you there!



School Christmas Mass

Wednesday, December 18th @ 9:30
Please join us!
At the Church.

Parents Make The Difference

Pay attention to how you say "no" to your child.

Kids who understand that they can't always get their way have a much easier time in school.

Help your child learn how to deal with disappointment by paying attention to "how" you say no. For example:



- Pause before saying anything. Say, "Let me think about this for a minute." This will help your child see that you are listening.



- Think out Loud. Children need to see how adults make decisions. "If I let you go to Mason's house to play, we won't have time to eat together."
- Acknowledge your child's feelings. Sometimes just saying, "I know you are disappointed." can help.
- Give a "fantasy" OK. If your child wants an expensive toy and you can't afford it, say, "I wish I could get that for you. But it is not in our budget." This may lead to a plan to save money for the toy.

Please see the Student Council sponsored events, noted on the calendar, happening in December!



Calling All Volunteers

Time and again, here at Saint Joseph's School, we have tried to express our gratitude for all that our volunteers do to make our school a great place to learn. In light of this point, we are now once again asking for volunteers. This volunteering could include assisting teachers with student success, helping with various class fundraisers, school trips, the breakfast club, etc. Please call the school if you are available to help us. Thanking you in advance for your time and generosity.



Sick Students?

Should a Cold keep your child out of school? Your child has watery eyes and a runny nose. He's sneezing and feeling poorly. You shouldn't send him to school for one or two days, even longer if the symptoms persist. The cold virus can spread to other children for up to five days after a cold's onset. Children can get sick from touching anything your child has sneezed or coughed on. Thanks for your understanding.



Mental Health Champions

St. Joseph's School once again has organized a student led Mental Health Champion team.

Members include: Julia Trelford, Kee Sartor, Maeve Evans, Michael Heesakkers, Quinn Wilke, Ryan Philips, Daniel Gill and Mackenzie Ritchie. They will be busy developing various activities with our students that will help educate and inform around Mental Health awareness. We are very proud of them all!



Mental Health Champions

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday















December 2019

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

HOPE™

December
Virtue of the
Month:
HOPE

Quote: **There is always something to be hopeful for!**

<p>1 First Sunday of Advent</p> 	<p>2 Advent Prayer Service at 9:15.</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Second Sunday of Advent</p> 	<p>9 Advent Prayer Service at 9:15.</p> 	<p>10 1:30 and 6:30.</p> 	<p>11 Jr. Futsal tournament in Walkerton. Shop with a Cop. 1:00-3:00.</p>	<p>12 Christmas concert snow date. Student-Staff volleyball game.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Third Sunday of Advent Spirit Week.</p> 	<p>16 Advent Prayer Service at 9:15.</p> 	<p>17 Christmas carols in the gym. Christmas colours day.</p> 	<p>18 Christmas School Mass at 9:30 at the church. Character Day.</p> 	<p>19 Christmas Socks Day December Assembly @ 2:00.</p>	<p>20 P.J. Day</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> 	<p>23 Advent Prayer Service at 9:15.</p> 	<p>24</p>			<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				