



HOLY NAME OF MARY

SCHOOL NEWS

161 Peel Street N
St. Marys, ON
N4X 1B2
Ph. 519-284-2170



November 4, 2009

<http://holyname.hpcdsb.edu.on.ca/>

Principal: Mr. G. Haber

Principal's Message

It is hard to believe we are into the month of November and the end of Term 1 is near! Teachers will soon be reviewing their entire term of assessment in the various curriculum areas to determine your child's strengths, areas needing improvements and the steps to realize that improvement. The attitude that continuous improvement is the only option for each and every one of our students is one that the entire staff at Holy Name embraces and we take great comfort in knowing you share that same sentiment with us. The need to keep the bar raised high and expecting the very best from every individual is a belief we all share, and your support as the first teacher in your child's life is greatly appreciated. I encourage you to continue to communicate regularly with your child's teacher and work together to move your child forward in their learning.

New Playground Equipment

PLEASE VOTE!!!!

As you are probably aware, the play equipment in our junior yard has been deemed unsafe. As such, we need to purchase a new play set. Play equipment is very costly and it would take considerable time to raise enough through traditional fundraising. As such, we have applied for a grant through the Aviva Insurance Community Fund. Please go to: <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf1559> to place your vote. Please encourage friends and family to vote as well. **NOTE: YOU CAN VOTE ONCE PER DAY** so we encourage you to login and vote each and every day. Thanks for your support!



Remembrance Day Ceremony

If you are able, please feel free to join us on **Wednesday, November 11th at 10:45 a.m.** as we honour and remember our military, both past and present, who so bravely stand up for liberty and peace in times of conflict.

PD Day

Please note that **Friday, November 13th** is a Professional Activity Day for staff and there be will be no school for students.

School Mass

Please note we have had a change in date for our next school mass. Our next school mass will be celebrated on **Friday, November 27th at 9:15 a.m.** As always, all are welcome to celebrate with us!



Playground Update

After mindful deliberation and input from students, parents and staff, a decision has been made to reopen the Junior Schoolyard on Peel Street effective Monday, November 9th. As always, safety was the primary consideration and we are very confident the children will indeed be safe, as they will be made aware the play equipment is off limits and staff on yard duty will be diligent in ensuring they stay off of the equipment. Thank you to everyone who provided input. ALL of the feedback was appreciated and considered in making this decision.

Mark Your Calendars!

Nov. 11 Picture Re-takes



Nov. 11 Remembrance Day Ceremony, 10:45 a.m.

Nov. 13 P.A. Day
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Nov. 20 School Mass, 12:45 p.m.

Nov. 25 Kindergarten Registration by appointment, 1:00-3:15 p.m.

Nov. 27 School Mass, 9:15 a.m.

Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent

Nov. 30 Report Cards sent home

Dec. 3 **Parent-Teacher Interviews, 3:40-8:00 p.m.**

Dec. 4 **Parent-Teacher Interviews, 9:00 a.m.—noon**

Celebration Corner

A GIANT THANK YOU goes out to **Klomp's Nursery and Garden Centre.** In addition to donating the materials and labour for the garden and walk at the front of the school several years ago, Klomp's provides complimentary maintenance of the garden throughout the year, including new materials as needed. Most recently, Klomp's installed the new garden at the front of the school, once again donating the labour and materials. The Holy Name of Mary Catholic School Community is truly blessed to have such a generous community partner and all of us want to acknowledge that generosity. THANK YOU once again!!!!



Holy Name of Mary: Proud To Be Friends Of The Earth and A GOLD EcoSchool

10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP REDUCE WASTE

1. Turn off all electronic devices when not in use at home, school and work.
2. Turn off lights and taps when not needed.
3. Remember to pay attention to packaging when purchasing items.
4. Pack litterless lunches for yourself and family and buy in bulk when possible.
5. Bring in used laser and ink cartridges and place in the Blue and Yellow box outside the office. Collect dead batteries and send them into school or drop them off at the Landfill free of charge. Try to avoid using batteries when possible too!
6. Pick up litter and recyclables and place in the appropriate area.
7. Compost fruit and vegetable scraps.
8. Send old clothes to an organization in need i.e. Salvation Army, Pass It On Store etc..
9. Look for and use Recycling bins that are provided when at an arena, mall, hotel
10. Minimize your carbon footprint each day by doing little things! They all add up!!!!



No one can do everything but everyone can do something!! Think Green!!!

Questions Parents Should Ask Their Children Instead of
"What did you do today at school?"

What did you make today that was meaningful?

What did you learn about the world?

Who are you working with?

What surprised you?

What did your teachers make with you?

What did you teach others?

What unanswered questions are you struggling with?

How did you change the world in some small (or big) way?

What's something your teachers learned today?

What did you share with the world?

What do you want to know more about?

What did you love about today?

What made you laugh?



Kindergarten Registration

Our Kindergarten registration for students eligible to attend Holy Name of Mary School beginning in September 2010 will take place during the afternoon of **Wednesday, November 25th** at the school. Please encourage people with children this age to contact Mrs. Greason at the school office (519-284-2170) for a registration appointment. Thank you.



Calling All 3 year olds

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Sign up your child *NOW* for Kindergarten next fall!

When: November 2009

Where: At all schools across Perth and Huron Counties

For: Children thinking of starting school in September 2010 who are:

- ✳ 3 years old by December 31, 2009 (JK)
- ✳ 4 years old by December 31, 2009 (SK)

At the event:

- ✓ Sign up your child for J/S kindergarten for 2010.
- ✓ See how your child is developing.
- ✓ Get tips on how to prepare your child for school.

For the event date at your school or more information, contact your local school or district school board office **AFTER OCTOBER 1st, 2009:**

Avon Maitland District School Board 62 Chalk St. N., Stratford 1-800-592-5437	OR	Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board 87 Mill St., Dublin 519-345-2440 1-800-265-8508
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Health Unit News

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

Did you know diabetes is one of the top ten leading causes of death in Ontario?

Diabetes can also cause serious complications such as heart, kidney, and eye disease.

Diabetes occurs when your body does not produce enough insulin or does not properly use the insulin it makes. Insulin is a hormone that converts food into energy. The causes of diabetes are a mystery - but genetics, obesity and lack of exercise appear to play roles.

The good news is we can help our children reduce their risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. A healthy diet and an active lifestyle are the two most important things you can do to prevent diabetes. Help the whole family reduce the chance of getting diabetes by eating healthy foods and being physically active!

For more information contact your local Health Unit or visit the Canadian Diabetes Association's website: www.diabetes.ca.



Bus Delays/Cancellations

With winter weather right around the corner, it is that time again to remind everyone about the procedure for finding out whether school buses are running or not. Please tune into one of the following radio stations to hear about the status of our school buses:



Mix 107.7 - Stratford
AM 980 - London
CBC London - 93.5
AM 570 News - Kitchener
FM-96 London - 95.9
CJBK AM 1290
103.9 The Hawk
103.1 Fresh FM
Q97.5 - London
BX-93 - London



The safety of all students is a priority of Huron Perth Student Transportation Services (HPSTS) and our Board. When transportation services are cancelled due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions, announcements of the closures and cancellations are broadcast on a number of radio stations in the region. This important information is also made available through the HPSTS website at www.ourschoolbuses.ca which can be found by following the link on Holy Name of Mary School's website <http://holyname.hpcdsb.edu.on.ca/> and on the Board website at <http://www.huronperthcatholic.ca/> under School Bus Delays/Cancellations. If a school remains open when buses are cancelled, it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to decide if conditions are safe for a child to walk to and from school.

Questions and Answers for Huron Perth Catholic School Communities about H1N1



Our schools have received questions related to H1N1. We will continue to keep our schools open, to educate our students. We will also continue to be in regular contact with the Health Units to ensure that our response as a School Board is based on their expertise.

It is important to remember that the H1N1 virus is not a school-based disease, nor is it just a school issue. It is a community-based disease and a health issue which is a concern for us all.

We want to share the following information with our school communities to develop an informed understanding of what is taking place in our schools and across the district:

1. Q: Are we planning to close schools because of H1N1?

- A. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and both County Health Units, do not recommend the widespread proactive closure of schools. This measure is not considered effective in preventing transmission as students and staff may be exposed to the virus in other community settings. The benefit of keeping schools open currently outweighs the risk of transmission in these settings.

2. Q: If there was an H1N1 case at the school, will we be informed?

- A. We do know that the virus is circulating in the community. As such, the school/location will not be informed of site-specific cases of H1N1 by the Health Units. Testing to confirm which strain of flu is making someone ill is not being done except in the more rare serious cases. The Health Units will communicate with our Board and schools about the status of increased H1N1 activity that might require additional public health intervention. The H1N1 virus is the predominant flu strain circulating in Ontario this fall and public health officials expect to see H1N1 in the community, including in the school population. Influenza is a community-acquired infection, so avoiding settings, like schools, will not reduce the risk of exposure.

3. Q: If cases are not reported, how are the Board and Health Units keeping track of large numbers of cases at a single site?

- A. Through on-going direct communications, the Board is actively monitoring all school sites for student absences of 10 per cent or more and reporting this information to our Health Units and the Ministry of Education.

4. Q. How does the Board make decisions about what needs to be done about H1N1?

- A. H1N1 is a health issue and the School Board takes its direction from health officials - specifically the Perth District and Huron County Health Units. We also receive direction and information from the provincial Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The board complies with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care *Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in Schools*.

5. Q. What can be done to avoid getting the flu?

- A. In addition to getting the H1N1 vaccine, everyone should continue to practice basic infection control such as hand washing, coughing and sneezing into sleeve or upper arms, and staying home when ill.

6. Q. Are we providing hand sanitizers in our schools?

- A. Yes. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are available in rooms that are not equipped with soap and running water. Frequent, thorough hand-washing with soap and water is the most effective avoidance strategy.

7. Q: What if I want to keep my child at home as a precaution, even if the child is not ill?

- A. It is our expectation that healthy children are at school. Influenza is a community acquired infection, so avoiding settings, like schools, will not necessarily reduce the risk of exposure.

8. Q. What if a student gets sick at school and it's thought to be H1N1?

- A. If a student feels ill at school, the student will be taken to the office and the parent/guardian called to pick up the child as quickly as they can.

9. Q. What are the Board's cleaning procedures to prevent H1N1 transmission?

- A. The Board has initiated heightened cleaning procedures, and has facilitated training for our custodians, provided by the Health Units. High-touch surfaces like door knobs, panic bars, push plates and hand rails are cleaned frequently.

10. Q: As a parent I do not want to keep students home because they may miss school work. Is that a legitimate concern?

- A. The advice from health officials is quite clear—when you are ill, you should stay home until the fever has been absent for 24 hours and you are feeling well enough to resume normal activities. It is a key flu prevention strategy, and also critical to your personal wellness. Students need to stay home until they are well, and teachers will help with missed work upon their return.

11. Q. I have been in contact with my child/another child/spouse/friend who I think has H1N1. Should I stay away from work or the school?

- A. No—this is a community-based illness and we should all expect to know someone with flu-like symptoms. We continue to go to work as usual, unless we need to stay home with an ill child, and that is a family responsibility.

12. Q: What about special events at schools like class celebrations and school dances; should they be cancelled?

- A. At this time, the direction from both Health Units is that we continue all usual activities. Given that this is a community disease, cancelling special events will not prevent the spread of the virus. Students and other participants should be reminded, however, of standard flu prevention precautions such as frequent hand washing.

13. Q. Is there anything coaches should do about sporting events where students gather?

- A. Coaches should remind students and players of the flu prevention precautions, including reminders to make sure students do not share drinks/water bottles at sporting events.

14. Q: Where can I find out more about H1N1?

- A. If you have questions about symptoms or risks associated with influenza, you can visit the County Health Units at the following websites: Huron County: www.huroncounty.ca/health/h1n1.php and for Perth County www.pdhu.on.ca. Of course, you can also talk to your doctor or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

Question and Answer document produced October 29, 2009 in collaboration with the Perth District Health Unit and the Huron County Health Unit, and with resources from the Peel District School Board.

