

St. Michael Herald

From The Principal's Desk



Dear Parents and Guardians:

It appears spring has finally arrived. Our school dress code is outlined on page 13/14 of the student planner. I would ask parents to review our school dress code with their sons and daughters.

There is much activity going on in our school during this last part of the school year. Catholic Education week is taking place from May 4 to May 8. In addition to Catholic Education Week activities **Stuff the Bus** will be held on May 12th across Huron and Perth Counties and look for Arts Weeks activities during the week of May 19th. Our tech students are busily preparing for Skills Canada competitions and our sports teams are in full swing. A special thanks to all staff members who are generously volunteering their time to support these activities.

Your child's Second Semester Mid-term Report Card was distributed on Wednesday, April 29th. The **learning skills** section (far right) is used to indicate students' abilities in various work and study habits. The student's effort and competence in these learning skills are closely related to his/her level of achievement of the course expectations but are not used in determining the student's mark. In other words, if a student is doing poorly in a course, the learning skills section should give some indication of the work/study habits most in need of improvement.

The **percentage grade** represents your child's level of achievement of the course expectations. It is arrived at by following the Achievement Chart within each provincial curriculum document. Provincially, teachers are required to assign marks as follows:

- 80-100% = level 4 (very high level of achievement);
- 70-79% = level 3 (high level of achievement);
- 60-69% = level 2 (moderate level of achievement);
- 50-59% = level 1 (passable level of achievement).

Marks below 50% indicate that the student's work has failed to demonstrate a passable level of achievement. Since there is no provincially-set direction or requirement for determining the extent of a student's failure, parents should be aware that:

- marks of 40% to 46% indicate that the student's performance is slightly below passing level.
- a mark of 35% indicates that the student's performance is significantly below passing level.

There is no formal parent-teacher interviews scheduled at this time. However, parents are encouraged to phone their child's teacher if you have any concerns.

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IMPORTANT DATES for GRADUATES 2009

- April 23: Cap & Gown Order and grad fee due in homeroom
Prom ticket sales-Sr.lunch in cafeteria Mon, Wed & Fri as follows:
- May 4-15: Prom tickets sales (\$25)
- May 19-22: Prom tickets sales (\$30) **LAST WEEK no exceptions!**
- May 27: Meeting with all graduates
- May 29: Graduates' Prom, 8:00 p.m. to midnight in the gym
- TBD: Complimentary tickets from the Stratford Festival Theatre
- June 10: Grade 12 Grad Retreat
- June 21: Youth Lead GRADUATES Mass at St. Joseph's Church
- June 25: Graduation rehearsal, 10:00 a.m. in upper hallway
(attendance is mandatory).
- June 25: Graduation Ceremonies ~ be in upper hallway by 6:45 PM

In Your Future: Important Dates

- Tuesday, April 28 - Grade 11 Retreat
- Wednesday, April 29 - Mid term reports go home
- May 12 - Stuff the Bus
- May 19 - 22 - Arts Week
- May 20 - Arts Gala
- May 20/21 - Grade 10 Retreats
- June 11 - Closing Mass





Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board

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SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2009 – 2010

(Subject to Ministry approval)

Subject to Ministry approval, the Huron-Perth Catholic and Avon Maitland District School Boards will adopt the 2009-10 calendar described below, which has been developed through consultation involving Trustees, Supervisory Officers, and all employee groups within both School Boards.

At its regular Board meeting on March 30, 2009, the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approved this calendar.

Why does this calendar differ from other years?

The school year must include a minimum of 194 days, of which six may be designated as Professional Development days. The traditional start date of Tuesday after Labour Day is not possible in 2009-10 because of the lateness of Labour Day. There are only 192 days between Labour Day and June 30 (presuming a two-week Christmas break, a one-week March break, and provincially-set holidays).

Hi-lights of the 2009-10 Calendar:

School Opening Day	September 1, 2009	
School Holidays	September 4 and 7, 2009	Labour Day Weekend
	October 12, 2009	Thanksgiving Day
	December 21, 2009 – January 1, 2010	Christmas Break
	February 15, 2010	Family Day
	March 15 – 19, 2010	March Break
	April 2, 2010	Good Friday
	April 5, 2010	Easter Monday
	May 24, 2010	Victoria Day
Last Day of Classes	June 28, 2010	Elementary Schools
	June 21, 2010	Secondary Schools
P.A. Days	September 25, 2009 November 13, 2009 December 4, 2009 February 1, 2010 March 1, 2010 June 29, 2010	
Secondary Exams	January 25 – 29, 2010 June 22 – 28, 2010	

STUFF THAT BUS

On Wednesday, May 12th, school buses will travel across Huron and Perth counties and visit each school. While this may not sound all that unusual, it is a little bit different than every other time school buses do pick-ups and drop-offs in our community. On this day, each school will do its part to "STUFF THAT BUS" with food for the St. Vincent de Paul foodbank. The buses will travel from school to school, picking up food donations along the way. This is the second annual Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board district-wide service learning project. As a community we are encouraged to prepare, act, celebrate and reflect on our collected efforts to share food with one another. As Catholic Christians we are challenged to live lives of service, generosity and love and this is one way that we can do that together.



St. Michael Catholic Secondary School community members, supporters and parents are invited to join our school when we welcome the bus at approximately 12:25. Students and their families are invited to make food donations beginning on May 4th through to May 12th at the school. The food bank is in need of non-perishable food to share with families in our community. All donations of food or money are appreciated. Money collected will be used to buy food. Some suggested donations items include the following: peanut butter and other condiments, cereal, crackers, pasta noodles and sauce, canned meat and fish, canned vegetables and fruit, juice, "lunch box" items, soup and baby food. If we all work together we can "STUFF THAT BUS" once again this year.

If you have questions or desire to get involved, please contact Karen Tigani at 519-271-0890 X1311.

Challenge Day

Our grade 10 students, along with many adult volunteers from our community, participated in Challenge Day on April 16 and 17. The vision of Challenge Day is that every child lives in a world where they feel safe, loved and celebrated. To share this vision, the organization provides an experiential program that demonstrates the possibility of love and connection. This proved to be a very powerful, moving and spiritual day where a palpable change could be felt. Both the students and adults felt compassion for each other and a connection with each other - hearts were changed. Students experienced reconciliation, forgiveness, acceptance, unconditional love and were treated with dignity and respect as human persons. The facilitators inspired our students to be the change they wish to see in the world. They were challenged to use the formula for change in their daily lives - to notice, to choose and to act. We are in the process of starting a "Be the Change" team at St. Michael to keep this spirit alive. This event was sponsored through a partnership between the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board, the Avon Maitland School Board, the City of Stratford, and local businesses.

CONGRATULATIONS

We have had many outstanding accomplishments in our extra curricular program in the last semester.

A special congratulations to the following:

Nordic Skiing ~ 2 OFSAA Gold Medals

Girls Volleyball ~ Silver at OFSAA

Girls Hockey ~ Silver at OFSAA

Senior Band ~ Top High School Band Kiwanis Music Festival

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Update from the French Exchange Group

15 students and 2 teachers from Lycee du Sacre Coeur, in Rouen, France visited St. Michael in the first half of a student exchange from April 9 to 23. The French students were billeted with their exchange partners' families and spent time attending classes and visiting local tourist destinations such as the Stratford Festival, Niagara Falls, St. Jacobs and Toronto. 21 St. Michael students will continue their new friendships with their partners when they pay a return visit to France from October 8 to 18.

Highlights from the Visual Arts Department

Next years visual art course selection has increased; a vital sign in a climate of declining enrolment. Students are embracing and understanding that Art is not just about making pictures. Parents too, need to expand their understanding of the value of a visual arts education. A Visual Arts curriculum teaches divergent thinking and problem solving. These skills directly transfer to numerous art careers; animation, web design, packaging design, landscape architecture, and the list goes on. These skills also seamlessly transfer to non art careers. Every future job requires problem solving and divergent thinking. Students must have patience. They develop solid attentive on task practices that require thinking, analysis, and refinement skills, each step of the creative process. These art skills also support other high school subjects. Brain research continues to publish results showing how students in the Arts do better in Maths and Sciences than those without Art. An Ivy League Medical School recently added art criticism as a necessary component. In this way doctors learn to increase the visual acuity (powers of observation) something necessary when they examine their patient's colour, tone, texture, etc., of eyes, skin and tongue "Lazy eyes" out, "artist's eyes" in. Most importantly, St. Mike's artists learn that quality takes time, and an investment of concern. This too provides a transferable lesson to friendships, English essays or science projects. So the next time you feel concerned when a son or daughter expresses an interest in Visual Arts, pick up the phone and call, because this is only a sampling of the value of Visual Arts for your teenager.

Thursday, April 23rd saw senior art classes tour Gallery Stratford's current exhibit. Art literacy and knowledge were mixed with analysis and interpretation skills culminating in the communication of a professional art critique.

On April 29th, Visual Art Specialized High Skills Major students will experience a Mural in-service as a foundation and inspiration for future mural creation. On May 20th the 12th Annual Arts Gala will showcase over 50 visual artists in the opening of the school's Annual Art Gallery.

Recently, three visual artists competed successfully at the Skills Canada Competition. Tori Grant, a grade 11 student placed 1st in the animation competition and Christian Thomas and Chris Giannopoulos, both grade 12, placed 2nd in the documentary category. These students go forward to the final provincial competition held at RIM Park in May.

Business Department News

NEW BUSINESS COURSE AVAILABLE AT ST. MICHAEL

The Business Department is pleased to offer a new business course beginning this September. BBI 20, Introduction to Business, will give students a comprehensive overview of the major components, functions and processes that comprise modern businesses. Major topics covered will include: Types of Business Ownership, The Role and Impact of Business, Profiling Canadian Businesses, Start-Ups, Ethics, Finance and Personal Finance. Students will explore and apply the key functions of business: product development, marketing, management, accounting, communications, human resources, customer service and information technology. Through a variety of teaching methods from role play to groups to computer work, students will gain an appreciation of the vital role business plays in our society and how it underpins every human endeavour, be it sports, the arts, social science, technology and of course, our consumer culture. **Give your son or daughter a head start for his or her future by including BBI 20, Introduction to Business, as one of their course selections for 2009.**

EARN COLLEGE CREDITS & HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS AT THE SAME TIME WITH CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION!

St. Michael is pleased to offer grade 12 students enrolled in Co-op a Dual Credit opportunity. This unique arrangement allows the post secondary bound student the chance to experience life and learning at the college level while earning both high school co-op credits and college credits at the same time. Currently, the costs of the college tuition, books and transportation are covered by the School to College to Work Initiative (SCWI) Project. The secondary student benefits by experiencing college at no cost. They get to observe and experience post secondary courses from either Conestoga or Lambton College. College credits are earned while the student is still in high school. These credits can be transferred to the future college that the student chooses to attend. Courses available for September 2009 include:

Conestoga College in Stratford (TENTATIVE for September 2009)

Health Sciences Certificate Program: (1) Professional Practice (2) Supportive Case 1

Law & Security Administration Program: (1) Canadian Criminal Justice Systems

Lambton College in Sarnia (transportation costs are covered)

Introduction to Business

Safety, Tools and Materials

Criminology

Baking and Pastry

Developmental Disabilities & Aging

Learning through Play

Hairstyling

Client Care Issues 1

Energy Resources

Chainsaw Maintenance

Resorts and Gaming

Manicures

If you have any questions about dual credit courses, please email Liz Yundt at liz_yundt@hpcdsb.edu.on.ca or call 271-0890 X 1197.

Bev Gregory

Department Head

Business Studies and Co-operative Education

Technology Department News

Huron Perth Catholic District School Board once again had a winning team at the 20th Skills Canada - Ontario Provincial Technological Skills Competition. The St. Michael CSS Home Building team of Steven Kolkman, Andrew Fulton, Chris Lingard and Nathan Kolkman won the Bronze Medal in this provincial competition. In less than 16 hours (2 days) these students had to build a detailed shed to completion from working plans, including electrical wiring and plumbing.

Also competing for Huron Perth Catholic DSB was Tori Grant and Garrett Schliewinsky in 2D Character Animation, Christian Thomas and Chris Giannakopoulos in TV Video Production, Pat McLean in Industrial Wiring, Chris Murray in Electrical Wiring, Shaun Louwagie in Small Engine Repair of St. Michael CSS. Ruby Moore and Marnix Goud, team of two Carpentry, and Nathan Fleming, Individual Carpentry of St. Anne's CSS.

Congratulation students and teachers of these students on an excellent showing of character, skills and knowledge.

Tim Martens
Huron Perth Catholic D.S.B.
OYAP Project Leader
OYAP/SHSM/SCWI/TECH/CO-OP

Martin Overholt
St. Anne Catholic Secondary School
Technology Department Head

Mark Flanagan
St. Michael Catholic Secondary School
Technology Department Head



MEMO

To: Parents/Guardians
From: Tim Doherty
Date: May 2009
RE: PROM

The time for our Graduation prom is fast approaching. Since most high school students are under the legal age for alcohol consumption, and this is a school event, alcohol is not allowed. Please discourage any use of alcohol by your son/daughter prior to the prom. **Students arriving at the prom under the influence or in possession of alcohol or drugs will forfeit their right to prom entry. They will subsequently be suspended from school, as is outlined in the "Safe Schools Act".** Please remember, one drink means that they are under the influence of alcohol.

As a result of the "Smoke Free Ontario" legislation smoking is not allowed on school property at any time. St. Michael C.S.S. will be enforcing a **"No Smoking"** policy at the graduation prom. Furthermore, students will not be permitted to re-enter the prom if they leave the building for any reason.

Please read the contract below, sign and return it to school prior to the purchase of your prom ticket.

My signature indicates

- 1. I have read this contract and**
- 2. I will support the school in its attempt to carry out the policies and decisions made by the school's administration.**

Parent(s)/ Guardian Signature

Phone number

Date

St. Michael C.S.S. STUDENT CONTRACT PROM 2009

I _____ agree that on the night of the prom, Friday, May 29, 2009, I will arrive at and leave the prom free from any influence of drugs and/or alcohol. I will **forfeit** my prom entry if I fail to do so. I am also aware that a **"No Smoking"** policy will be in effect. I am also aware that I will not be permitted to re-enter the prom if I leave the building at any point in the night. **My date** has been informed of the school's expectations and is prepared to **abide** by them. I am also aware that the St. Michael C.S.S and the Huron-Perth C.D.S.B is not responsible for anything that occurs after I leave the premises.

Student Signature

Name of prom date
(if not a St. Michael student)

(current school)

Signature of prom date
(if not a St. Michael student)

**Prom dates who are St. Michael students
require their own contract.**