



# The Heart Beat



Principal:  
Vice-Principal:  
School Council  
Co- Chair:

Mr. M. Kuntz  
Mrs. L. Fischer

Mrs. J. Dally &  
Mr. W. Poechman  
Mr. G. Casey

Superintendent:

**Sacred Heart High School**  
450 Robinson Street, Box 1480  
Walkerton, Ontario N0G 2V0

Director of Education: B. MacPherson  
Trustees: D. Slosser  
B. Eckensweiler  
S. Finnie  
F. Gross

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

## SEPTEMBER PRAYER

This year we will be celebrating the theme “Catholic Education: Rejoicing in Hope” in our Ontario Catholic schools. As we start this school year may we rejoice in hope in our hearts,  
in our homes,  
in our schools,  
in our communities,  
and in our world.

Loving God, walk with us during this school year and “always be ready to give an account of the hope that is within you.” (1 Peter 3:15) Help us to rejoice in hope. Amen

## WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to another school year. 2009-2010 promises to be an exciting year.

Special welcome to all new students and their families. Sacred Heart is a wonderful caring school community and we are happy to welcome you as a part of it.

In order to keep you informed throughout the year, we produce a school newsletter that is sent home with students at the beginning of each month. This newsletter is also e-mailed to all families who have provided us with their e-mail address.

We wish you all the best for the upcoming school year and look forward to a great year.

## EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

Wednesday Oct. 28, Nov. 25, Feb. 24 and May 5th are the Early Dismissal Days for the current school year. Students will be dismissed at 1:19 pm.

## NEW STAFF

Sacred Heart High School welcomes Mrs. Lesley Anderson and Mr. Greg Blackwell to our teaching staff. Mrs. Anderson is a former graduate of Sacred Heart and will be teaching Math and Science this semester. Mrs. Anderson taught at St. Mary’s in Owen Sound for the past 2 years. Mr. Blackwell will be teaching Accounting, Business and Civics/Careers. He is replacing Mrs. Eddyvean for the year while she is on maternity leave.

Also returning to Sacred Heart is Mrs. Tamra Goetz who is one of our Educational Assistants. Last year Mrs. Goetz worked at Sacred Heart School in Mildmay.

## GRADE 9 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

A Grade 9 Parent Information Night will be held on Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All grade 9 students and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend. The presentation will last approximately one hour and will cover topics including: high school life, rules and procedures and the role of parents in supporting their child at Sacred Heart. Following this presentation students may take parents on a tour showing them where their semester 1 classes are. It’s critical that parents remain involved in their teenager’s life. It is hoped that the parents of all Grade 9 students will be able to attend.

## Late Taxi/Bus



Sept. 8,9,10,14,15,16,21,23,24,28,29  
Oct. 1,5,6,7,13,14,16,19,21,22,26,27,29  
Nov. 2,3,4,10,11,12,16,18,19,23,24,28,30  
Dec. 1,2,8,9,10,14,16,17

Telephone / Attendance: (519)881-1900 Fax: (519) 881-4819

Website: [www.bgcdsb.org/~shhs](http://www.bgcdsb.org/~shhs) Email: [shhs@bgcdsb.org](mailto:shhs@bgcdsb.org)

## COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

Experience indicates that problems sometimes develop due to incorrect interpretations of information or a lack of transfer of information from home to school and vice-versa. Should you or your child have a serious concern which they do not seem to be able to resolve, please contact the teacher to arrange an interview. Clarification will frequently resolve the problem in the initial stages before it becomes a major concern.

If you have a concern, we hope that you feel comfortable about discussing it. It is only through dialogue and open communication channels that we can hope to resolve difficulties and allay misunderstanding.

In seeking a resolution to concerns, the proper recourse is the following:

- a) call or meet with the classroom teacher - if this does not resolve the difficulty,
- b) call or meet with our guidance/resource teachers, if not resolved,
- c) call or meet with the vice principal (Mrs. L. Fischer) - if not resolved,
- d) call or meet with the principal (Mr. M. Kuntz) - if not resolved,
- e) call or meet with our area superintendent (Mr. J. Casey), if not resolved,
- f) call or meet with our Director (Mr. B. MacPherson), if not resolved,
- g) call or meet with your local trustee (Mr. D. Slosser, Mr. S. Finnie, Mrs. B. Eckenswiller, or Mr. F. Gross).

## MANDATORY STUDENT CARD FEE

Once again this year all students will be required to purchase a student card for \$20. This amount will be collected on Photo Day (Thursday, September 10th).

The student card fee will be used by our Student Activities Council (SAC) to provide activities, services and events for our student body. It is hoped that this fee will eliminate the need for our SAC to complete major fundraisers (i.e. chocolate bar sales).

The student card fee will provide students with:

- valid photo id
- an agenda planner (school handbook)
- subsidized school dances
- school assemblies
- access to school library services
- access to school computers
- access to co-curricular opportunities (school teams/clubs)
- access to school field trips
- access to late bus service
- discounts at various local businesses.

Your support and prompt payment of this \$20 fee is greatly appreciated.

FYI - Most of the other high schools charge a mandatory fee of \$50.

## DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

Are you in grade 11 or 12? Are you thinking about attending College after you graduate? Are you interested in taking a College Course that will also count as a High School Credit and a College Credit? Georgian College, Owen Sound is offering a course one night a week beginning next week. For more information contact the Guidance Office.

## PICTURE DAY

Picture Day will be held on Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Information regarding picture packages will be sent home prior to Picture Day. All students and staff are asked to have their photo taken for the purposes of the school yearbook regardless of whether they are buying a photo package. On picture day money will also be collected for students and staff wishing to purchase a yearbook. The cost per yearbook will be \$ 50.00. The deadline to purchase a yearbook is October 23, 2009.

## **MUNICIPAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

During the school year, there will be opportunities for:

- students' work to be displayed
- students' special achievements to be publicized
- students to be photographed in a variety of activities for newspapers, yearbook or display
- class lists to be posted for various activities
- students to be interviewed for newspapers

We make every attempt to exercise discretion in the best interest of our students. At the same time, we must respect parental/guardian wishes for privacy in accordance with the Act.

If you have any concerns regarding the disclosure/publication of son/daughter's name(s) or work, please contact the principal.

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

All students have received a Student Handbook. All students and parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with its contents. These handbooks contain agenda calendar pages—please use them to keep yourself organized. If you did not receive a Handbook, please pick one up in the main office.

## **UPDATED INFORMATION**

It is important that the school have current and accurate information for all students. We need accurate addresses, phone numbers and medical information. Please return the Personal Information Sheet distributed in homeroom to the Main Office as soon as possible (even if there are no changes). Also if this information changes at any point during the school year, please contact the main office.

## **CAFETERIA SERVICES**

Our school cafeteria is open daily. The cafeteria is being managed by Chartwell's School Dining Services. They are committed to a Balanced Choice Menu at affordable prices.

## **SEPARATE SCHOOL SUPPORT**

When you move, your Catholic school support does not follow you. As soon as any change is made to your address, your school support designation reverts to Public. Unless you update this information, you will not be able to take part in Catholic Trustee elections. Contact the Board Office at (519)364-5820 for more information.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Nominations for this year's School Council are now being sought. According to the School Council constitution, up to eight (8) parent representatives are needed with all positions being open for the upcoming school year. **A nomination form can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.** Your participation would be greatly appreciated. Nominations are to be returned to the school by September 25<sup>th</sup>.

## ***ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)***

Students currently in Grade 10 as well as those who were unsuccessful in previous years will write the OSSLT on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Passing the OSSLT or the Literacy Course is necessary in order to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Further details will follow prior to the test.

## **LOCKERS**

Each student has been given a copy of the school's handbook. Included in this is information about lockers. It is important that students realize that the lockers are the property of the school and as such can be searched as required.

## **INTERNET USE**

All students are reminded that they, in order to comply with board policy, must have a signed acceptable internet use form submitted to the office before they are permitted to use the school's computer system. Contravention of this acceptable use policy can lead to consequences up to and including suspension.

## **GET INVOLVED!**

Students are encouraged to get involved positively in their school life. Many co-curricular are being offered this fall. Students are encouraged to listen to announcements each day for upcoming opportunities. Get involved!

Co-curriculars running this fall:

Girls' Basketball

Boys' Volleyball

Girls' Rugby 7's

Cross Country Running

Yearbook Club

Chess Club

Media Arts Club

Student Council

Band

Public Speaking

## ***ALTERNATE BUSING***

In keeping with board policy regarding alternate busing, students are reminded that they are not able to ride a bus different than the one to which they are assigned for reasons such as going to their job, visiting a friend, dental appointment etc.. Permission to ride a different bus is only given by the board in the case of different places of residence of parent/guardians. If alternate busing arrangements are needed for such a reason, an application form available from the school (or downloaded from the board web site) must be completed and returned to the board office for approval.

## **INSURANCE FORMS**

All students were given an insurance form as part of their opening day package. It offers low-cost insurance to students in case of accidents. Students who participate in sports etc are particularly encouraged to enrol in this program. All students participating in the co-op program must purchase this insurance as per Board Policy.

## **VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**

In order to ensure a safe learning environment, the use of video surveillance is in effect at Sacred Heart High School and on many of it's school buses. The video images are collected under the authority of the Education Act S. 170 and will be used to reduce/prevent property vandalism, theft and violence and to ensure the safety of students.

## **VOLUNTEER SCREENING**

The Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board has a policy governing the screening of volunteers in our schools. All volunteers in schools must be screened. The purpose of this policy is to ensure student safety.

## **DRIVER EDUCATION**

Driver Training will be offered this fall at Sacred Heart High School (subject to sufficient numbers). Please listen to morning announcements for more information or contact Mrs. MacDonald in the main office.

## **FORMOSA HOMECOMING LOGO CONTEST**

"Family, Friends & Fun" has been selected as the slogan for the Formosa Homecoming which will be held on the August Civic long weekend in 2011. The winning slogan was submitted by Connie Cassidy. Now the contest begins for the design of the Formosa Homecoming logo. The deadline to submit your logo design is October 31st, 2009. Entries can be mailed to: Formosa Homecoming Committee, General Delivery, Formosa, Ontario, N0G 1W0 or e-mailed to: [lfischer@ackertinsurance.ca](mailto:lfischer@ackertinsurance.ca)

## **SCHOOL WEBSITE**

The school website contains a great deal of information about school programs, course assignments, etc. Check it out at <http://www.bgcdsb.org/~shhs>

## ONGOING REGULAR REMINDERS:

**REPORTING ABSENCES** - If you know that your son or daughter will be away from school, PLEASE CALL and let us know. Messages can be left 24-hours per day at (519)881-1900.

**OFFICE HOURS** - Our school office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day Monday to Friday. If you call during these hours and get our answering machine this indicates that all of our phone lines are busy. Please leave a message or call back later.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES** - Many scholarships and bursaries are available to students heading off to post-secondary schools. Check out the web-sites: <http://www.scholarshipscanada.com> or <http://www.studentawards.com> or <http://www.millenniumscholarships.ca> for more details. Many of the universities and colleges also list scholarships and bursaries in their guidebooks which are available in the guidance office.

**KEEPING OUR SCHOOL CLEAN** - Please do your part to help keep our school looking great. Remember to clean up after yourself. Garbage cans are available throughout the school. If you make a mess clean it up! If you see a mess left by someone else, please help out and clean it up!

**KEEPING OUR SCHOOL SAFE** - In order to keep our school safe, please inform Mrs. Fischer or Mr. Kuntz or one of your teachers of any issues that arise. You have a responsibility to report things that need to be reported. You may leave an anonymous message on the school answering machine 24-hours a day or call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. Thanks for your help in keeping our school great.

## SCHOOL COSTS

Our school recognizes that expenses for such things as field trip costs and other school fees can cause unnecessary stress in some households. If you find yourself in this position, please contact the principal to see what arrangements can be worked out. Confidentiality will be maintained. Our school has received some donations that can be used to cover some costs. Special thanks to these donors.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Day Grade 9 Parent Information Night 7 pm
Friday, Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Back Assembly
Friday, Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Fox School Run

## GRADE 9 ORIENTATION DAY

Approximately 150 grade 9 students entering into Sacred Heart High School participated in the two day orientation program held at the school on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. This is the sixth year for the transition program at Sacred Heart and over 90% of prospective grade 9s participate each year.

School staff and administration, the Student Activity Council (SAC), yearbook committee and peer mentors all participate in the two days where students go over their timetable, receive lockers, go to six sessions based on topics including study skills, joining clubs and teams, computer skills, school tours, fitness session and a guidance session where they can verify courses, etc.

The SAC members also lead the grade 9s in fun activities where the students get to know peers, have a “dress code fashion show”, and conduct a scavenger hunt around the school and through their student agenda. All activities are helpful for the transition to high school which begins for all Sacred Heart students on Tuesday, September 8. Additional information is available on the school website at [www.bgcdsb.org/~shhs](http://www.bgcdsb.org/~shhs).

Lunch and busing was provided by the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board which carries out a similar program at St. Mary’s High School in Owen Sound.



Students are participating in relay activities on the school field.

*Photo by  
Yearbook Editor -  
Sarah Johnson*

**Sacred Heart High School  
Catholic School Council**

**- call for MEMBERSHIP for Parent Representatives**

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS SERVE IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY IN SCHOOL DECISION-MAKING AND HELP IN MANY COMMUNITY BUILDING VENTURES. WE WORK HARD TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY TO ENABLE OUR STUDENTS TO LEARN BETTER.

The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board Policy on Catholic School Councils states that the membership of the Catholic School Advisory Council will consist of:

Parents/guardians fulfilling the following requirements:

Parents/guardians shall form the majority of the Catholic School Advisory Council

Parents/guardians shall have children in the school

Parents/guardians shall be elected by the school community electorate

- A School Board Trustee cannot be a member of a Catholic School Council
- A person employed by the board is eligible if:
- not employed at the school
- other members are informed of the person's employment before appointment.

If you are interested in being a parent member of our council, please complete the form below and return to the principal by September 25, 2009.

I am interested in becoming a member of Sacred Heart High School Catholic School Council.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The best way to contact me is: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sacred Heart High School  
Catholic School Council**

**- call for MEMBERSHIP for Parent Representatives**  
**There are 8 positions to be filled for the 2009- 2010 School Year.**

School Councils were established to enable parents and students to take a more responsible and active role in education programs and the services offered within their local community. The purpose of the Catholic School Council is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. The Catholic School Council will work to connect the home parish and community with the school by providing recommendations to the school principal and to the school board on matters of program and operations.

The Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board Policy on Catholic School Councils states that the membership of the Catholic School Advisory Council will consist of parents/guardians fulfilling the following requirements:

- Parents/guardians shall form the majority of the Catholic School Advisory Council
- Parents/guardians shall have children in the school
- Parents/guardians shall be elected by the school community electorate
- A trustee cannot be a member of a Catholic School Council
- A person employed by the board is eligible if:
  - not employed at the school
  - other members are informed of the person's employment before appointment.

The mandates of the Catholic School Council are:

- To provide opportunities for parents to be more involved in the education of their children
- To support our mission statement and develop and evaluate annual goals for our school
- To provide advice to the Principal on program issues, operational issues and school budgets and priorities
- Be a voice for Catholic education and foster good relations among board members, parents, staff, the local community and related groups.

Parent representatives are expected to attend meetings of the School Council. Meetings are held once a month from October to June on dates scheduled. Parent representatives are expected to sit on other Committees as necessary.