



St. Mary School



October 16th, 2026 Weekly Update

Important Dates

Oct. 21st

Bus Driver Appreciation Day

Oct. 23rd

Halloween Dance -- After School

Oct. 27th

School Council Meeting -- 6:00 pm

Oct. 28th

Field Trip to the 67s Game

Oct. 29th

STEM Field Trip

Quick Links

[St. Mary School](#)

[St. Mary \(X\)Formerly Twitter](#)

[OCSB](#)

[CSPA](#)

[OSTA](#)

[Our Lady of the Visitation](#)

613-822-2197

Weekly Bulletin:

School Trustee

Scott Phelan

Zone 1 - Ward 6

Stittsville, Ward 20

Hello St. Mary Families,

It's been a bit of a mixed bag for weather this week. Please ensure you/your child checks the weather before you leave each day so they are dressed appropriately. We do try to get outside as much as possible!

Our School Council will be running a Halloween Dance on October 23rd after school. This is always a fun event and we appreciate the time our volunteers put in to making it great! Details are below. Tickets will be available for purchase on School Cash until October 17th.

Our School Council is also looking for volunteers for our Pumpkin Decorating activity on October 30th. If you are available, please see below to sign up for a shift!

As always, my door is open if you'd ever like to touch base. Please feel free to reach out!

Mrs. Divell

Attendance Reminders:

Did you know that missing just two days of school a month adds up to 20 days lost in a single school year? Over time, from Kindergarten through Grade 9, those days accumulate to a full academic year of learning missed.

Consistent routines and prompt arrivals also make a significant difference. Here is how a few minutes each day can impact your child's learning over the course of a school year:

10 minutes late or leaving early = 6.9 days of missed learning per year

20 minutes late or leaving early = 13.8 days of missed learning per year

30 minutes late or leaving early = 20.7 days of missed learning per year

Arriving on time and staying for the full school day helps children feel prepared, stay connected with their classmates, and build positive habits for the future. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school regularly and thrive!

We understand that some students may experience specific challenges that affect their attendance. Our dedicated team of educators and support staff are here to help provide assistance, resources, and understanding to help address these concerns. Please feel free to reach out to your student's teacher or Mrs. Divell should you feel additional support may benefit your student with their attendance at

Osgoode, Ward 21

Rideau-Jock

Phone: 343-597-6604

Fax: 613-228-4158

Email: scott.phelan@ocsb.ca

school. Together, we can explore strategies to better support your student's individual needs!

First Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation

Letters were sent home to students in Grade 2 regarding First Communion and Reconciliation and to Grade 6 students regarding Confirmation. An email was also sent to you with this information digitally. Meetings for parents/guardians are ongoing. Please see below for information shared by the church in case you missed it! Any questions can be directed to the church

 First Communication and Reconciliation Parent Letter

 Confirmation Parent Letter

 Sac Prep Parent Meetings 2026 2027.pdf

 2027 OLV Confirmation Preparation Program Parent Information_final.docx

Honouring Our School Bus and Van Drivers

On **Wednesday, October 21**, our school community will celebrate **Driver Appreciation Day**. This is a special opportunity to recognize the dedicated school bus and van drivers who keep our students safe every day. We invite all students, parents, caregivers, and staff to join us in extending our heartfelt thanks to these essential team members.

Every day, regardless of weather or road conditions, our drivers carry out the vital responsibility of transporting students safely to and from school. Beyond navigating their routes with care, they offer a welcoming presence that sets a positive tone for the school day. They are truly partners in our educational community.

We encourage everyone to take a moment this week to share a warm word of gratitude with our drivers. Even the simplest gesture can make a meaningful difference!

Ways to Show Your Appreciation

- **For Students:** You can offer a friendly "Thank you!" when getting on or off the vehicle, or create a handmade card or drawing to give to your driver.
- **For Parents and Caregivers:** You can greet your driver at the stop with a quick note of thanks. A brief, personal acknowledgment of their work is always appreciated.

Thank you for helping us celebrate our bus and van drivers on Driver Appreciation Day! To learn more, please visit the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority website at www.ottawaschoolbus.ca.

Halloween

Please do not send in treats/snacks on Halloween. Thank you!

A few reminders about Halloween Costumes for students:

No face/ eye/ hood coverings

No accessories that may pose tripping or poking hazards

No violent characters/props or fake bloody faces (please remember our students range in age 4-12)

Students should be able to put on and take off their own costumes independently

Costumes should not be large enough to impede student movement or vision. Please avoid inflatables. Costumes should also not impede other students' movement or vision in class or on the yard.

Costumes need to be culturally appropriate

When in doubt, students or parents can ask their teacher what is appropriate for school or reach out to Mrs. Divell.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Spirit Week:

Halloween Spirit

October 26 - October 30

Week



Monday

Pyjama Day!

Get comfy and cozy in some pyjamas



Tuesday

Fun Hair/ Sock Day!

Rock out with spooky socks or hair

Wednesday

Sports Day

Wear team jerseys and sports gear



Thursday

Orange and Black Day!

Celebrate with Halloween colours

Friday

Halloween Costume Day!

Wear a school appropriate costume



Halloween Dance Information:

Our School Council will once again be running our Halloween Dance. More information is shared in the poster below. **Please note, this is not a drop-off event. Parents/Guardians must accompany and supervise their children.**

🎃🕷️ Something SPOOKY is brewing at school! 🕷️🎃



The School Council is busy stirring up some **Halloween magic** and bringing back **TWO** of our favourite Halloween traditions! 🧛‍♀️✨

🧛‍♀️🕸️ **October 23rd — Halloween Dance!**

Get ready to dance the night away with some spooky tunes, Halloween fun, and plenty of treats! 🧛‍♀️🎵 Note: This will be an evening event.

Our annual Pumpkin Decorating Day will take place on Friday, October 30th, and we are looking for parent volunteers to help make this event a success!

Volunteer shifts are available at the following times:

Morning: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Afternoon: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30p.m.

Both shifts: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out this form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScz0L7kCUKSQ8kVXqiYZz4OI6S0IGWc65h0Wc4ZXdlbINQjHA/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

Thank you for your continued support and for helping make this a fun and memorable event for our students!

Happy decorating! 🎃



St. Mary Catholic School
5536 Bank Street, Gloucester K1X 1G9
Phone: 613-822-2985
Fax: 613-822-0288
Class Hours: 9:15 am – 3:45 pm

