

## Anti-drinking and driving messages promoted through “Message on a Bottle” campaign

### St. Joseph School participates in program for eighth straight year

Updated 23 hours ago

RIVER CANARD — Those who make purchases at the Amherstburg LCBO store will get an anti-drinking and driving message thanks to St. Joseph School students.

Hundreds of LCBO bags were decorated and featured many slogans written by students asking people not to drink and drive. It was the eighth straight year St. Joseph School has participated in the campaign and was brought to the school by Grade 7 teacher Val Pelaccia.

The school held its annual assembly at the conclusion of the campaign last Tuesday afternoon. Several local dignitaries were on hand to congratulate the students on the campaign and to further the message not to drink and drive.

"The initiative you have taken at this school is very remarkable," said Mayor Wayne Hurst.

St. Joseph students spoke up and conveyed an important message, he added.

"Rather than do nothing, you saw something needed to be done, something needed to be said and you did that with 'Message on a Bottle,'" said Hurst.

Paul Picard, director of education with the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board, praised Pelaccia for bringing the program to St. Joseph School.

"This has been a love of his for a long, long time," said Picard. "The community has benefited tremendously."

Brian Parker, regional manager with LCBO, said the bags are enjoyed by the customers and that many ask for them this time of year. He said he lost a niece in an impaired driving accident 15 years ago and said the messages the students put out are vital.

"We appreciate your efforts very much," he told the students. "You do make a difference with the bags you make. If you save one life, you save a lot."

Essex MPP Taras Natyshak said he was pleased that Pelaccia asked him to be part of this year's assembly.

"What a wonderful event," said Natyshak. "What a powerful message you are sending in this campaign."

Natyshak also told the students they were teachers that day, as they were teaching people to safe around the holidays.

"People listen to kids. You are the voice of our future. You have a really wholesome message," he added. "It's a wonderful, powerful message."

Essex MP Jeff Watson told the students that he lost a friend several years ago when his friend was hit by an impaired driver. He said while the legal penalties are stiff, the greatest cost of impaired driving is human life.

"You may be young but each and every one of you are leaders in your communities at this very moment," said Watson. "Each and every one of you are to be thanked for delivering this message."

Sgt. Mike Cox was also on hand and he demonstrated what happens when police stop a suspected impaired driver. He conducted a mock RIDE program with co-op student Dean Vandermuren and told students what happens if a person is arrested. In addition, Cox told the students about the penalties for an impaired driving

conviction, including loss of license, having the vehicle towed, and having a criminal record that could impact future employment opportunities and the ability to cross the border into the United States or other countries.

"It affects a lot of things in your life, some of the things we take for granted," said Cox.

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## Villanova presents “An Evening of Music”

### Music concert performed at area Catholic secondary school

Posted 7 hours ago

LASALLE —A crowd gathered at St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School Dec. 14 to join the concert band and the choir for "An Evening of Music."

The choir opened with a powerful rendition of "O Canada" to kick off the night's performances. The night continued on with "Rockers 3" performed by the Villanova concert band.

Kristina Miclat, one of the students featured in the piece, has been in the band for three years. She plays the saxophone and sings in the choir. Maddy Walker performed a solo, "Midnight," by Allison Crowe. The senior has been involved in the band for two years and said that she has loved the experience so far.

The choir, featuring Jillian Blanchette and Emilio Quaggiotto on violin, performed an excellent rendition of "The First Noel." Following the piece, Sierra Santoro performed a drum solo to "Won't Get Fooled Again" by The Who and received a standing ovation from members of the audience.

Nicole Topliffe and Felicia Heron gave a sneak peak of Villanova's upcoming play "Grease," which opens in February. They performed "Raining on Prom Night." Nicole has been playing flute in the concert band for four years, and has sung in choir for two. She said that she loves playing and calls it her "escape."

The closing piece performed by the band was "Pirates of the Caribbean." Ann Marie Brunet, the music director, said it was her favorite piece and as expected it was a crowd pleaser.

The Villanova music department's next recital is in May.

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## Villanova collects almost 6,200

## cans and non-perishable items



Ron Giofu The Amherstburg Echo

**Ron Giofu**  
The Amherstburg Echo

LASALLE — It was St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School's turn to step up to the plate and help those less fortunate.

A can drive organized by teacher Craig McBride and his Grade 12 religion class was held over a one-week period and concluded last week with 6,192 cans and non-perishable food items collected.

There are 32 students in all who helped spearhead the can drive this year and McBride pointed out the class is studying social justice.

McBride said it was the first year he had organized the can drive, with other teachers within the school having done

it during previous years. This year's total is actually down somewhat from past years with economic conditions being pinned as the cause.

The can drive is "a great lead-in" to the holiday season, said McBride, as it presents an alternative to the consumerism that often accompanies Christmas.

"It's a nice way to approach the holidays," said McBride.

Proceeds from this year's can drive went to several charitable organizations, predominantly the Essex County Food Bank and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Food items also will be kept internally at Villanova for needy students at that school as well as for students in need at St. Michael's Alternative High School.

Craig McBride's Grade 12 religion class at St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School spearheaded a school-wide can drive for various local charities. The drive collected 6,192 items.



DEC 1/11

# Strong anti-bullying message presented to students at Villanova High School

by Heather Marentette

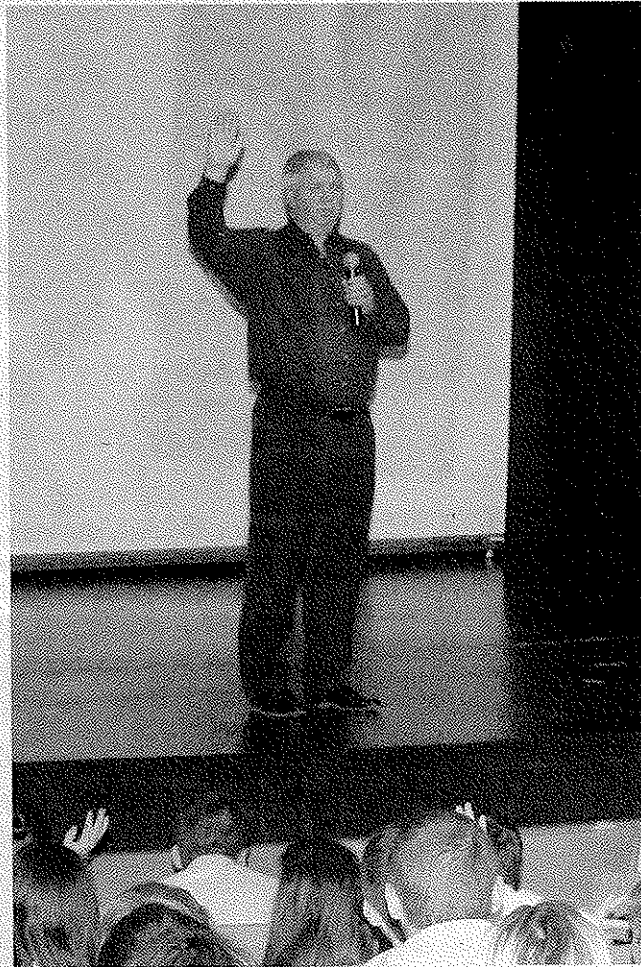
It's impossible to listen to Mike Neuts speak about the tragic death of his son, a victim of childhood bullying, and not be affected. At Villanova High School on Friday, November 28, students of all ages filed into the school auditorium to hear Myles Neuts' story as told by his father - a man who travels the country spreading a strong anti-bullying message with others.

"I want you to understand the first-hand effects that bullying and other hate crimes have on an individual and their families," said Neuts.

Over the first half of Neuts' presentation, he shared his personal story and the details of what happened the day that Myles died. He was even able to get students within the auditorium to raise their hands when prompted to say if they had ever been a victim of bullying, or had been a bully themselves.

"I know that we all make mistakes, but I hope that we can all learn from our mistakes, and not make them a second time."

On February 6, 1998, grade five student Myles Neuts went to his school in Chatham, Ontario. During the lunch hour that day, he was found hanging, unresponsive, on a coat hook in a school washroom. Myles was taken to a London hospital, where after six days on life support and guarantees from the doctors that he would never regain consciousness, he was taken



**Mike Neuts of Make Children Better Now Foundation spoke to students at Villanova High School about the effects of bullying, and shared his own personal story of how his son, Myles, died at school in 1998, a victim of childhood bullying.**

off of life support and died.

According to Neuts, Myles was not a regular victim of bullying, and had never been bullied before that day in February, 1998. He described his family as "an ordinary family, doing ordinary things."

"All we did that day was the same thing that your parents did today - we sent our kids to school. And Myles never came home," said Neuts. "This is supposed to be a

place of learning, fun, and friends."

Still to this day, the Chatham-Kent police have not yet closed the investigation into Myles' death.

Since 2000, Neuts has spoken to thousands of Canadian school children, educators, law enforcement officials and parents, spreading his strong anti-bullying message. He acknowledges the role that

everyone plays in bullying, whether as the bully, the victim, or the bystander.

His non-profit organization, Make Children Better Now Foundation, allows him the opportunity to become an advocate for youth, speaking out against bullying.

"I won't rest until I can no longer do this or until I have made the changes that I want to make in the world," said Neuts.



## Lady Saints dream season

Submitted by:  
**Jocelyn Guilbeault**

With the overwhelming support from parents, teachers and students, OFSAA 2011 was bigger and better than ever thought possible. The Lady Saints took on Toronto Northern on November 24, and knocked off the seventh seed. Their momentum carried on to their next opponent: Notre Dame, ranked tenth in the province as they fought their way to a victory. The girls moved on to the quarter finals, against a tough opponent, Mother Teresa, the second place team in Ontario.

The bleachers were filled with students, teachers, parents and faculty sporting the blue and gold colors, and the lancer mascot encouraging louder

cheering. The players stood in awe and admiration of such an incredible amount of support behind them, the roar of the crowd filling their bodies with adrenaline and inspiration. The Lady Saints dominated play throughout the game with incredible shooting by Meighen Boyd, but with some missed opportunities and slips on defense, the saints were down by three in the fourth quarter. With under a minute to go, the girl's needed a three pointer to send the game to overtime. With extraordinary efforts made by Amber Bechard to keep possession, the saints had enough time to run one last play. With 3.6 seconds on the clock, the ball fired around from player to player, Tiffany Trembley was left with an open three

shot. Those seconds seemed to last an eternity as the ball hit the inside rim and popped out as the buzzer sounded to end the game.

Although the overall outcome of play in the tournament was unfavourable, as Saints we try to focus on what lessons we've learned, the friendships made, and the strength of character discovered on our journey to the provincial quarter finals. To say that this experience was any less than a dream come true would be a severe understatement. This tournament proved to everyone the family bonds we have within our school, the support from our community and especially the dedication of our athletes for their quest to greatness. We all reach a time in our



The St. Anne's Saints hosted te OFSAA Girls AAAA Basketball championships, making it all the way to the quarter-finals.

Photo submitted

lives where we grow and move on, and our past must simply become memories. And as I say this, I am speaking for all of the Grade 12 members of the 2011 Ste. Anne senior girl's basketball team, what I will most remember from this season

is not the games won or lost, the bruises or scratches or tournament play. What we will remember the most are the girls who became our family during the past three months, the hardships and fun times we endured together, the love and

dedication of our parents, coaches and teachers. We will only have one senior high school basketball season, but we will always have our memories to remind us of the times we shared together.



# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rick Hansen Relay



St. Peter School students mull over their choices of drinks and snacks in between a variety of activities that were co-ordinated by École secondaire l'Essor students.

Photos by Bill England



St. Pius X School students raise their 'torches' in tribute to the medal bearers during the opening ceremony outside Tecumseh Arena.

SHORELINE Dec 2/11



# St. William chips in for Coats 4 Kids

Over the past few weeks, the students of St. William Catholic Elementary have been very generous in bringing in their coats and snow pants that they have outgrown. This mission was spear-headed by grade eight student Monique Renaud and her mother, Julie Renaud, who is a member of the school's Catholic School Council. They set a goal of collecting 200 coats to donate to the Coats 4 Kids program, but the St. William community cleaned out their closets and donated 484 coats and snow pants! The Catholic School Council donated a pizza party to the class who brought in the most coats as an incentive.

Congratulations go to Mrs. McDonald's Grade Four class who brought in a total of 66 coats and wins the

delicious pizza party! Second place goes to Mrs. Breault's Grade Eight class who brought in 50 coats. Thank you to all who supported this important mission, the St. William's community will help make the

winter months easier for many of our region's children. Way to go Wildcats!

Our next community mission has already started. St. William's is collecting food items for our annual Food Drive to support the local food bank. Donations of pasta sauce, Manwich, tea, coffee, sugar, bar soap, cereal and school snacks such as puddings, granola bars and cheese and crackers are in high need. Please send these items, and any canned goods, in with your child to the school until Dec. 2. After this date, please consider donating directly to the food bank or at your local parish.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, each classroom presented their Advent



Brielle L., Kyla S., and Monique R. are pictured with the coats collected at St. William School. Photo courtesy of Julie Renaud.

wreaths to be blessed. This past weekend marked the beginning of the liturgical season of Advent, and all students

will be focusing on becoming a reflection of the light of Christ. Through prayers, discussions, art activities and

reflections, students will focus on the qualities of Jesus that they are seeking in their own lives.

LAKESHORE NEWS  
DEC 1/11



# Catholic school board elections

Holland first female chair since amalgamation



WINDSOR-ESSEX CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TECUMSEH TRIBUNE

At its annual organizational meeting, Trustees with the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board acclaimed Windsor Wards 6 & 7 Trustee Barbara Holland as Chair of the nine-member Board. Holland is the first woman Chairperson since the amalgamation of the Essex and Windsor Separate School Boards. Holland was first elected to the Board in 2000 and, over the past eleven years, has served on several Board committees including: Friends and Advocates of Catholic Education, Audit Committee, Faith Development, and Employee Benefits Consultant Committee.

Trustee Mary DiMenna was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair. DiMenna has been a trustee representing Catholic ratepayers, parents and students in Essex,

Kingsville and Leamington since 2003. In addition to spending 33 years as an elementary teacher, DiMenna has been active on several Board committees over the past eight years: including the Audit Committee, Employee Wellness Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Trustees, Fred Alexander, Joan Courtney, Mary DiMenna, Frank Favot, Barbara Holland, John Macri, Bernie Mastromattei, Jim McMahon, and Lisa Soulliere were elected through the municipal elections process to serve a four-year term (2010-2014). A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected annually at the Board's Organizational Meeting in December to a one-year term that begins immediately.

OEC 8/11



# schools

## St. William supports local food banks



Nolan M., Keely R., and Grace L., who collected cans from the classrooms of St. William every day.

Over the past two weeks, the students and families of St. William Catholic School have shown true compassion by bringing in over 1,100 food items to support the local food banks.

Students brought in pasta sauce, cereals, snacks, soups, and many other items to help stock the shelves at both the Essex and Lakeshore Food Banks.

St. William School will also be teaming with the local Goodfellows to sponsor 13 families for Christmas. Gifts of new clothes, toys (unwrapped please), and gift cards are appreciated.

The campaign ends Monday, Dec. 12! Thank you to all who help support our students in reaching out to touch the hearts of others.

### Trees

St. William School has proudly planted 31 beautiful trees in our back field.

Grades 5 and 8 students worked together to beautify our school and help the environment. Special thanks to ERCA for their support.

In future years, the trees will add much needed shade for students during warm weather.

### Volleyball

St. William is proud to have both boys' and girls' senior and junior volleyball teams this season.

All teams have been practicing hard and have begun to play games and participate in tournaments.

Good luck Wildcats!



# St. William Kids' Praise Club spreads holiday joy

By Jennifer Breault  
Special to Shoreline Week

The St. William Catholic School's Kids' Praise Club has been busy spreading holiday joy.

Under the direction of Mrs. Jan Innocente, the choir has been visiting retirement homes in the area, singing different Christmas carols.

On Wednesday, the Kids' Praise Club – made up mostly of primary students – headed to Heron Terrace to bring their songs of merriment to the residents there and spread a little holiday cheer.

Last Thursday, they, headed to Brouillette Manor to bring a little Christmas spirit to our area's seniors.

They sang songs and participated in crafts with their parents and the residents.

The school is a buzz with preparations for



Shoreline Week photo: Courtesy Jan Innocente

Pictured with a Brouillette Manor resident are Praise Club members (**front row**) Emma C., Marissa P., and Ayden S., (**back row**) Sarah D., Victoria S., and Lauren M.

the Christmas Carnival on Tuesday, Dec. 20, hosted by the Grade 8 students.

The Grade 1 students wore their pajamas to school, snuggled down with some hot chocolate and participated in an enjoyable media activity,

and the Grade 4 students in Mrs. Caniff's room are busy preparing for their class play about the story of Jesus' birth.

#### Decorated

The school is fully decorated with beautiful crafts that the students

have made, and everyone is very excited for the Christmas Break to begin!

Students have been listening to stories, doing art activities, and having Deacon Roy visit the classrooms to say the Rosary.





SHORELINE  
Dec 16/11

Shoreline Week photo: Bill England

Grade 3 student Joshua Bourgeois places a Hot Wheels starter set box on the table prior to Monday's assembly at St. Gregory Catholic School.

# St. Gregory students collect gifts for children in need

In recent weeks, St. Gregory Catholic School students in JK Novelletto, JK/SK Bortolotto, Grade 1 Metler, Grade 2/3 Parent, and Grade 6 Hage/6 Smith classes have been collecting new, unwrapped toys and socks for children of all ages.

On Monday, they brought their items in to present to a representative from the Divine

Mercy Special Works Conference.

The gifts will be distributed to those in need. What a beautiful way to keep children warm and bring smiles to their faces!

### 'Food 4 Food' Bake Sale

Mr. Garneau's Grade 4 class and Mrs. Samrah's Grade 3/4 class held their 'Food 4

Food' Bake Sale.

Students used their own money to bake treats, while students from other classes were invited to bring in canned goods to exchange for the tasty baked goods.

All of the canned goods and cash were donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



## st. anne saints news

# Saints think pink

By Matthew Luppino  
Special to Lakeshore News

The Ste. Anne community takes bullying very seriously. As most of us are aware, in September 2007, a grade nine boy wore a pink polo shirt on his first day of high school and was cruelly harassed.

Two grade 12 students decided to take action and gathered their friends. They went out and bought 50 pink shirts and wore them the next day to support the Grade 9 student.

Thus, the tradition of "pink shirt day" spread around Canada as a campaign against bullying.

This year at Ste. Anne, "Pink Day" occurred during Anti-Bullying Week. Hundreds of students showed up to school wearing a pink shirt, some guys even borrowing their sister's shirt to support the cause. Some students even came dressed in full pink to show how much they care. All the students showed their interest in maintaining the tradition and ultimately trying to stop bullying from happening. During Anti-Bullying Week, students were asked to do something nice for one person throughout the duration of the week.



St. Anne students dressed in pink for last week's anti-bullying campaign.

## Lady Saints make their OFSAA mark

By Jocelyn Guilbeault  
Special to Lakeshore News

The big enchilada, the Holy Grail or the big dance, OFSAA is the most wanted and sought after championships for any high school athlete in Ontario.

Within this elite group, very few have ever been given the chance to participate in this provincial tournament on home court. Our AAAA senior girl's basketball team at Ste. Anne High School was fortunate enough to be given such an incredible opportunity. With the overwhelming support from parents, teachers and students, OFSAA 2011 in the City of Roses was bigger and better than ever thought possible.

Our lady Saints took on Toronto Northern on Nov. 24, and the girl's phenomenal defense and aggressive play made them unstoppable as they knocked off the seventh seed. Their momentum carried on to their next opponent: Notre Dame, ranked tenth in the province as they fought their way to a 24 point lead in the first half. The Saints finished on top, instilling a little fear in the higher ranked teams. With this victory, the girls moved on to the quarter-finals, giving them a chance to medal in the tournament.

They faced off against a tough opponent, Mother Teresa, the second place team in Ontario. Their ranking was no match to the electricity and passion that coursed through the gym on Friday morning.

The bleachers were filled from top to bottom with students, teachers, parents and faculty sporting our sacred blue and gold colors, the lancer's mascot encouraging louder cheering. The players stood in awe and admiration of such an incredible amount of support behind them, the roar of the crowd filling their bodies with adrenaline and inspiration.

The lady Saints dominated play throughout the game with incredible shooting by Meighen Boyd, but with some missed opportunities and slips on defense, your Saints were down by



The St. Anne Saints in OFSAA basketball action.

three in the fourth quarter.

With under a minute to go, the girl's needed a three pointer to send the game to overtime. With extraordinary efforts made by Amber Bechard to keep possession, your Saints had enough time to run one last play. With 3.6 seconds on the clock, the ball fired around from player to player, Tiffany Trembley was left with an open three shot. Those seconds seemed to last an eternity as the ball hit the inside rim and popped out as the buzzer sounded to end the game.

## Coming events at St. Anne

Thursday, December 1st

-Girls Hockey Home Game against Villanova @ 3:00 PM

Tuesday, December 6th

-Senior Boys Basketball Game against Brennan @ 7:00 PM  
-Junior Boys Basketball Game against Brennan @ 5:30 PM  
-Senior Girls Volleyball Home Game against St. Joseph's @ 5:20 PM  
-Junior Girls Volleyball Home Game against St. Joseph's @ 4:00 PM

Thursday, December 8

-Senior Girls Volleyball Game against Sandwich @ 4:00 PM  
-Junior Girls Volleyball Game against Sandwich @ 5:20 PM  
-Boys Hockey Game against Villanova @ 3:30 PM

Monday, December 12

-Girls Hockey Game against Holy Names @ 3:00 PM  
-Boys Hockey Game against Brennan @ 3:30 PM

Tuesday, December 13

-Senior Boys Basketball Home Game against Holy Names @ 7:00 PM  
-Junior Boys Basketball Home Game against Holy Names @ 5:30 PM  
-Senior Girls Volleyball Game against Holy Names @ 5:20 PM  
-Junior Girls Volleyball Game against Holy Names @ 4:00 PM

Wednesday, December 14th

-Boys Hockey Game against Sandwich @ 3:00 PM

Thursday, December 15th

-Senior Boys Basketball Game against Massey @ 5:30 PM  
-Junior Boys Basketball Game against Massey @ 4:00 PM  
-Senior Girls Volleyball Home Game against Massey @ 4:00 PM  
-Junior Girls Volleyball Home Game against Massey @ 5:20 PM

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

-Senior Boys Basketball Home Game against Essex @ 7:00 PM  
-Junior Boys Basketball Home Game against Essex @ 5:30 PM  
-Senior Girls Volleyball Game against Essex @ 5:20 PM  
-Junior Girls Volleyball Game against Essex @ 4:00 PM

Thursday, December 22nd, 2011

-Boys Hockey Game against Belle River @ 2:30 PM



# ste. anne saints news

# Movember madness!

By Emilee Lefaive  
Special to Lakeshore News

The handlebars, the duster, the French style, the regular, the roller coaster, and more are the types of moustaches that were seen throughout the month of November.

Many teachers and students at Ste. Anne High School participated in this awareness of prostate cancer; even the women wore a 'token stache'!

Mr. Richardson, Mr. Burke, Mr. Fuerth, and many more showed their support by not shaving their upper lips at all during November.

And not to be the ones to only watch, our lady teachers were supportive as well by drawing on moustaches with markers and eyeliner! This includes Mrs. Amyot, Mrs. Roy, Miss Cassidy, Mrs. Meloche, Mrs. Herdman, Mrs. Vietch, and lots more.

"Movember was a very great and interesting month. All kinds of people grew staches, even people who could not grow them dyed them, all for one reason... cancer research!" said Grade 11 student Luke Sanko, who grew a moustache of his own for this important occasion.

"It was a great thing to be a part of and it felt great to walk down the halls of school or walk around in the town and see other people growing them too... (it made me feel awesome!)"

### Prostate cancer awareness

Movember was created to increase prostate cancer awareness.

Women created such beautiful support with all the breast cancer awareness and fundraisers held during the month of October.

The rate of men getting prostate cancer was on the rise; they had to do something to let men know they were not immune.



Pictured, from left, Mr. Spadafora, Mr. Couvion, Mr. Garant, Mr. Idone, Mr. Burke, Mr. Fuerth and Mr. Procyk wear their Movember staches and T-shirts during a dress down day.

Lakeshore News photo: Courtesy Jim Nehmetallah

"It was great to see how many guys supported prostate cancer during Movember," said Grade 11 student Meaghan Campbell.

It was amazing to see how many people cared. Their support helped a lot so a huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped.

"I mustache you a question, but I'll shave it for later," quipped Kody Rindlisbacher when asked about Movember.

We can't wait to see how 'Flowcember' or 'Decembeard' turns out!

## Raffle raises \$35,000 for students



Principal SherriLynn Colley-Vegh, far left, and School Council chairperson Kelly Rosaasen are pictured during the raffle draw with four of the top selling students looking on.

Lakeshore News photo: Courtesy Jim Nehmetallah

### Majority of funds will pay for new bleachers

By Matthew Luppino  
Special to Lakeshore News

The Ste. Anne annual raffle went well, raising about \$35,000.

The incentives for all the raffle participants were two sets of Detroit Red Wings tickets and a pizza party for the top three selling classes.

The majority of the raffle money will be going towards our new bleachers, as well as girls basketball uniforms and boys hockey uniforms.

The raffle was a big success and the parents of Student Council thank every participant for raising money for our school.

All of the results are posted at <http://mail.wccdsb.on.ca/~201/>

### Upcoming events

Monday, December 12

- Girls Hockey Game vs. Holy Names @ 3:00 PM
- Boys Hockey Game vs. Brennan @ 3:30 PM

Tuesday, December 13

- Senior Boys Basketball vs. Holy Names @ 7:00 PM\*
- Junior Boys Basketball vs. Holy Names @ 5:30 PM\*
- Senior Girls Volleyball vs. Holy Names @ 5:20 PM
- Junior Girls Volleyball vs. Holy Names @ 4:00 PM

Wednesday, December 14

- Boys Hockey Game vs. Sandwich @ 3:00 PM

Thursday, December 15

- Senior Boys Basketball vs. Massey @ 5:30 PM
- Junior Boys Basketball vs. Massey @ 4:00 PM
- Senior Girls Volleyball vs. Massey @ 4:00 PM\*
- Junior Girls Volleyball vs. Massey @ 5:20 PM\*

Tuesday, December 20

- Senior Boys Basketball vs. Essex @ 7:00 PM\*
- Junior Boys Basketball vs. Essex @ 5:30 PM\*
- Senior Girls Volleyball vs. Essex @ 5:20 PM
- Junior Girls Volleyball vs. Essex @ 4:00 PM

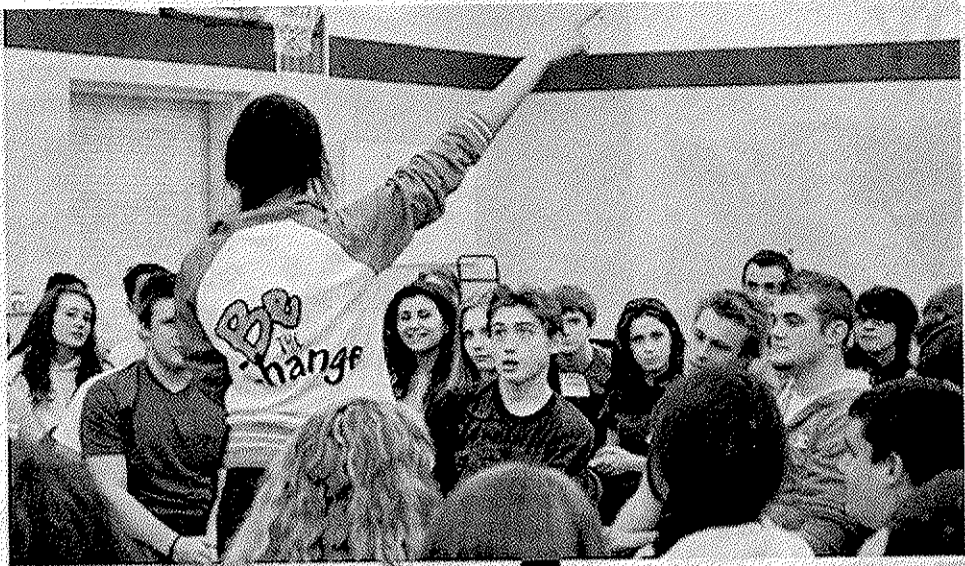
Thursday, December 22

- Boys Hockey vs. Belle River @ 2:30 PM

\* - home game



# ste. anne saints news



A collage of photos from the recent Challenge Day for Grade 11 students.

## Challenge Day hits home!

By Jocelyn Guilbeault  
Special to Shoreline Week

She sits next to you in math class, you share the same lunch and you even went to the same grade school, but do you even know her name?

There are many of us that roam the hallways of high school, disregarding any stranger or newcomer that passes us by. We judge them based on rumours we've heard, what they look like, or perhaps by the people they surround themselves with.

Challenge Day was created to break this horrible cycle and show high school students the true person that hides within us all.

Grade 11 students participated in this event last week.

The change in atmosphere as the day progressed was apparent even to teachers, at the start of the day most students were waiting with their usual circle of friends, unaware of the dramatic change that was about to occur.

The first step of the day was to place everyone in small groups called "families" which the students travelled with for the remainder of the day.

In those groups, they played games such as "If You Really Knew Me . . ." and "Crossing the Line". These games created an eye opening experience for those involved, because in those families were other students you were good friends with, just acquaintances or people you barely see in the hallway.

When questions were asked, such as "If you've lost a parent" or "If you have been bullied by anyone in this room", most were shocked to see how many people they knew crossed the line.

"Sometimes we get so caught up in our own lives we forget about the world going on around us and become incentive to others," said Shannon Deehan of the experience.

"But on this day, I was reminded that a smile can change someone's day. I would recommend the entire future Grade 11s to participate in Challenge Day because I felt more aware of the reality that surrounds me everyday, and I had the opportunity to meet incredible people".

Teachers involved were Mrs. Janice Boismier and Mrs. Jacqueline May - S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Trouble).

## Pulling pork for Hollywood!

By Matthew Luppino  
Special to Shoreline Week

Mr. Nehmetallah's Specialist High Skills Major: Information Communications Technology class hosted a pulled pork night to raise money for their Hollywood trip in March.

Over 150 people, including many staff,

students, and relatives came to support.

Music and the haunting aroma of the fresh pulled pork filled the old library.

Many students participated, serving the people and organizing the buffet of food.

To enrich the meal, many different salads were made, including a Taco salad, a Caesar salad

and a Macaroni salad, by each student going on the trip.

The pulled pork night was a big success!

At the end of the dinner, a 50/50 draw was held and the winner took home over \$70!

A big thank you goes to everyone who came to support the pulled pork night for the Hollywood trip.

### Upcoming events

Tuesday, Dec. 20

- Senior Boys Basketball vs. Essex @ 7:00 PM\*
- Junior Boys Basketball vs. Essex @ 5:30 PM\*
- Senior Girls Volleyball vs. Essex @ 5:20 PM
- Junior Girls Volleyball vs. Essex @ 4:00 PM

Thursday, Dec. 22

- Boys Hockey vs. Belle River @ 2:30 PM

### Attention parents of future Grade 9 students

St. Anne Catholic High School invites parents of future Grade 9 students to an Open House and Information Night on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Please meet in the cafetorium at 7 p.m. Staff members will be in attendance to answer your questions about the Grade 9 program.

For more information, please call the school at 519-727-8908.

# News from St. Mary Catholic School with French Immersion

TECUMSEH TRIBUNE DEC 22/11

December has been a very busy month at St. Mary's as we prepare for Christmas. Each week the students gather in the gym to take part in an advent celebration marking the 4 weeks in preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The St. Mary community has shown much generosity in helping out those who are less fortunate than us. We had a successful Christmas Shoe Box campaign, collecting over 100 boxes of items for underprivileged children.

The grade 2/3 will be running a bake sale to raise money for Child Life Services who purchase special items for children in hospitals.

The St. Mary Knitting Club was very busy making scarves and mittens which were donated to several schools who distributed them to children in need.

The students continued to show the spirit of Christmas as they were all involved in a Christmas Production. It was amazing to see the diversity and creative skits, songs, dances, etc. that the students performed under the direction of their teachers and the school director, Mrs. S. Reaume.

The play's emphasis was not only on Santa and the presents we receive during Christmas, but rather on the true meaning which is the birth of Christ.

Many other activities are taking place as well. Jody Raffoul and friends will be at the school for their Arts On Tour – A Hometown Holiday, presentation. This is an interactive presentation that promotes the numerous careers related to the arts.

Grades 6-8 were fortunate to see the Walkerville play A Christmas Truce and then enjoyed an afternoon of skating at the WFCU center.

The grade 3/4 and 4s will be visiting the Iler Nursing Home in Essex to bring greetings and warm wishes for Christmas to the seniors. They will present them with a Christmas card and a lovely ornament that the children made themselves.

The children also had the opportunity to see a wonderful presentation from the African Drum and Dance Troupe. This lively presentation introduced the children to the culture and customs of Africa.

With all that goes on at St. Mary's we can't forget to mention the great sportsmanship and athletic ability our students have. We had a great Volleyball Season for both the boys and girls. They played exciting and fierce games and showed great team spirit throughout the season.



## Grade 2 students at St. Peter learn about their heritage

Students in Mrs. Drouillard's Grade 2 class at St. Peter Catholic School have been learning about family heritage. Each student brought in items from their ancestors' country.

Pictured, from left, are Anthony Grammatico (Bethlehem), Elijah Dimasuay (Philippines), Vanessa Chimienti (Italy), and Samantha Haddad (Jordan).

Shoreline Week photo: Alisha Brooks

SHORELINEB DEC 23/11



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# Junior Wildcats enjoy successful season!

By Justine Bruyere  
Special to Shoreline Week

SHORELINE  
The St. William  
Wildcats junior girls'

volleyball team had a great time volleying, setting, spiking, and serving as they enjoyed a successful winning season.

The girls started practicing in November during the lunch hour and hosted a mini-tournament on December 8 and captured first place.

The girls entered another tournament, hosted by South County Volleyball Club on December 16 at École secondaire E.J. Lajeunesse and finished the round robin with a 4-1 record.

In the championship game, they lost to a very strong team from Marantha Christian Academy, but still finished in second place.

Thank you to all the girls for your hard work – looking forward to next year!



Picture, from left are, **(front)** Isabelle K. and Madison W.; **(middle row)** Coach Justine Bruyere, Baylee M., Sylvia P., Grace L., Jacquelyn S., Skylar F., Kendra P., Katrina K., Amy B.; **(back row)** Coach Joe Bachetti, Carli M., Alyssa B., Nicole G., Jenessa R., Isabelle T., Emily G.; and Coach Jon Macri. Absent from the photo are Isabelle H. and Sierra M.

Shoreline Week photo: Courtesy Claudia Polewski



schools

# Raffoul rocks St. Gregory!



Shoreline Week photo: Courtesy Stephanie Hage

Local singer/songwriter Jody Raffoul (pictured above with Catherine Moscone) played a concert for the Grade 7 and 8 students at St. Gregory Catholic School recently.



# St. William supports Goodfellows

Every child deserves a present at Christmas.

Over the past five years, St. William Catholic School students have supported the Goodfellows' 'Spirit of Giving' program.

Each year, the school helps 13 families have a wonderful Christmas. This year, the students collected over \$3,400 in gift cards and over 250 gifts.

"It is important for the children to see how fortunate they are, and to participate in the shopping, sorting, and wrapping of gifts purchased for the families," says Catholic School Council chairperson Renay Grant.

"The students enjoy helping others; they say



it makes their Christmas better knowing they helped other kids receive gifts."

Mrs. Grant started the program five years ago to help students understand that it's important to help others enjoy the holiday.

The Catholic School

Council would like to thank all of the students and their families for their generosity this year, and over the past few years.

The staff and students of St. William would like to wish everyone a very blessed Merry Christmas.

SHORELINE  
DEC 23/11

CSC members, parent volunteers, and students sorted and wrapped gifts before delivering them to the Goodfellows for distribution to the families.





Marc Girard photo

Musician Jody Raffoul plays a song for Grade 7 and 8 students at St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School on Dec. 9. Raffoul has teamed with St. Clair College to promote the arts, such as music, visual art and animation.

## Raffoul strums for St. Bernard students

**Marc Girard**  
Special/The Echo

Musician Jody Raffoul visited St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School recently to promote the arts.

Raffoul visited the school Dec. 9 as part of a program called Arts on Tour, a partnership with St. Clair College, helping them promote the arts as a part of children's futures, as it relates to the business side. The tour visited 35 schools in 24 days.

Raffoul also was promoted

his new holiday season, which features songs with artists from Big Sugar and Jeff Burrows of the Tea Party.

"It feels great," said Raffoul.

"I have four kids. They didn't have the arts program these kids have now. Arts are a gateway to normalcy for these kids. It's all about communication and some kids communicate through the arts."

Arts on tours, which was an initiative started by Raffoul, goes around school to talk about careers in arts and to promote children achieving their

dreams through education.

Particular emphasis is placed on this event for Raffoul, who says he believes strongly in the impact a good education can have on a young child.

"Arts is really important," said Adam Koschuck, marketing coordinator for Arts on Tour.

"I've seen kids go anywhere from this program, such as music and culinary. We're giving them hope to go for their dreams and do what they want to do. The big they get out of this is to not be afraid and do what you want."



# Villanova students help out

**Marc Girard**  
Special/The Echo

For the eighth consecutive year, the people at St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School have shown how much they care for those in need.

As a part of their annual Adopt-a-Family campaign, the students and teachers managed to collect enough gifts to sponsor 46 families in the Windsor-Essex area earlier this month.

A wide array of present were given for a variety of age groups.

The presents were brought into the school by students in a procession into the Villanova gym and were placed on a table on

Dec. 13. After the procession, the school held its annual Advent Mass.

Some of the organizations that benefitted from the staff and students generosity were the Children's Aid Society, the Essex Area Food Bank and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

"To see young people giving so much, it really just gives me faith that young people want to be involved in their communities," said Philip Cole, who was there with Children's Aid. "Villanova is always so generous. When the gift procession came in, it took probably over 20 minutes because there was just that much."

On top of the gifts for needy people, the school held a can drive in November which saw them collect over 6,000 cans, which were distributed throughout the three agencies.

"It's wonderful to see the response," said Villanova teacher Maggie Ducharme.

"The best part is that it's not even just the students. The staff are involved, the parent council is involved. It's nice to know that we are helping out others at Christmas.

"We have been blessed and a lot of our families are very fortunate and it's good that we can give back."



Marc Girard photo

St. Thomas of Villanova students Madeline Byrne, left, and Christina Pacitti hold one of the many gift baskets that were donated to the school's Adopt-a-Family campaign. The students and faculty of Villanova donated enough presents, money and food to sponsor 46 families in the Windsor-Essex area for the holidays.



# Students display workplaces

**Marc Girard**  
Special/The Echo

Students at St. Thomas of Villanova had the chance earlier this month to get a glimpse into the co-operative education program.

On Dec. 13, the school held its annual co-op job fair, which allowed Grade 9 and 10 students to get a look at what the program offers and what sort of workplaces take in co-op students.

The 30 students that took part in the co-op class had board displays, equipment and photos of

what they did at their placements.

Some of the jobs on display included a physiotherapist, teachers, child youth workers, roofers, veterinary technicians, graphic designers and even a fire fighter.

The job fair ran from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and had the students and teachers attending rating the displays on the information given and the overall appearance of their display. Students had jobs anywhere from Amherstburg and LaSalle to Windsor and Tecumseh.

"Most of the kids, when I interview them at the start of the class, are looking to get experience in the field they're interested in," said Doug Byrne, who teaches the co-op class at Villanova.

"Some like their placements, some don't and it's a good tool for them to test it out. Some of them go to college and university and this allows them to see if that is the path they want to go down."

A total of 725 students attend the fair, which was held in the main foyer of the school.



Marc Girard photo

Zachary Cristofaro (left) tests the tens machine he used during his co-op placement at Amherstburg Physical Therapy on Alexandra Pepin. A tens machine sends electrical impulses to the muscles, giving them a massage and improving blood flow. Pepin was one of 725 St. Thomas of Villanova students to attend the co-operative education job fair at Villanova on Dec. 13.



# Villanova presents 'An Evening of Music'

**Maranda Grant**  
Special/The Echo

LASALLE —A crowd gathered at St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School Dec. 14 to join the concert band and the choir for "An Evening of Music."

The choir opened with a powerful rendition of "O Canada" to kick off the night's performances. The night continued on with "Rockers 3" performed by the Villanova concert band.

Kristina Miclat, one of the students featured in the piece, has been in the band for three years. She plays the saxophone and sings in the choir. Maddy Walker performed a solo, "Midnight," by Allison Crowe. The senior has been involved in the band for two years and said that she has loved the experience so far.

The choir, featuring Jillian Blanchette

and Emilio Quaggiotto on violin, performed an excellent rendition of "The First Noel." Following the piece, Sierra Santoro performed a drum solo to "Won't Get Fooled Again" by The Who and received a standing ovation from members of the audience.

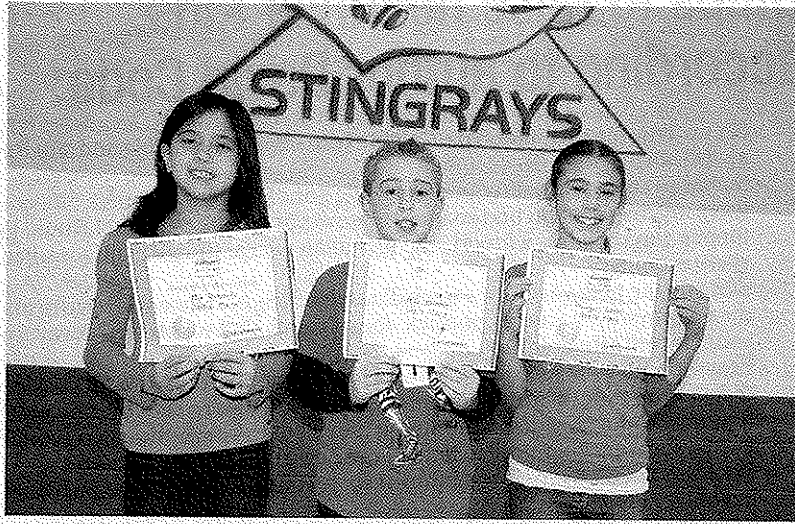
Nicole Topliffe and Felicia Heron gave a sneak peak of Villanova's upcoming play "Grease," which opens in February. They performed "Raining on Prom Night." Nicole has been playing flute in the concert band for four years, and has sung in choir for two. She said that she loves playing and calls it her "escape."

The closing piece performed by the band was "Pirates of the Caribbean." Ann Marie Brunet, the music director, said it was her favourite piece and as expected it was a crowd pleaser.

The Villanova music department's next recital is in May.



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Ron Glofu - The Amherstburg Echo

## Stella Maris spelling champs

The CanSpell Spelling Bee at Stella Maris School produced 18 finalists. Emerging from the pack were Mia DiNardo (third), Max Beadow (first) and Morgan Queen (second).



Ron Giofu The Amherstburg Echo

## Raffoul concert

Musician Jody Raffoul paid a special visit to Stella Maris School Wednesday afternoon to play for the school's Grade 7 classes. Raffoul played a few of his songs and took questions from the students.



# Spelling Bees





Ron Giofu The Amherstburg Echo

## Wal-Mart adopts local school

St. Theresa School has been adopted by Wal-Mart. Grade 7 student Mackenzie Caradonna officially receives the cake from Wal-Mart staff members Lynn Alleva and Rose Kascjak.





Marc Girard photo

Anti-bullying advocate Mike Neuts speaks at St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic School on Nov. 25. Neuts' son Myles died as a result of bullying and Neuts has since gone on to tour schools, speaking about the ill effects of bullying.

## Neuts makes impact at Villanova

**Marc Girard**  
Special/The Echo

For Mike Neuts, heading to St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Secondary School was just another stop on his tour of schools, leaving behind another group of impacted students.

Neuts is an anti-bullying advocate, who goes around to schools giving passionate speeches about how wrong it is to bully.

Neuts was just like any other man before Feb. 12, 1998. That day, his life would change forever.

While at work, Neuts received a call from his son's school in Chatham. The call from the school told him his son, Myles, was choking. Neuts rushed to the school to find out that his son has been found unconscious under suspicious circumstances in the school washroom. He had been hung from a coat hook in one of the stalls.

He died six days later in a London hospital. It was ruled his son had been the victim of a bullying attack.

Since this horrific incident, Neuts has been travelling from school to school, talking about the horrible pain that bullying has inflicted upon his family, from their bedside visits while Myles was still in the hospital to their interaction with the police. To this day, Neuts and his family still don't know for sure who did this to their son.

For the crowd at Villanova, composed of students and teachers the assembly hit home, with Neuts' passionate words and pleas to the crowd having a visible impact. At the end, Neuts left himself

open to chats with students who wished to remain behind. Some students came up to Neuts with tears in their eyes and he offered nothing short of comforting words for them.

"For me, there's nothing more rewarding than to see a young person smile," said Neuts. "Also, there's nothing saddening to me than to see them frown. I understand what I talk about while produce the latter but if in the end it creates more smiles, I am the happiest person out there."

Myles would have been coming up on his 25 birthday in December. Neuts admitted it is difficult to speak about his son sometimes but to hear about situations similar to his son less frequently fuels his passion and stiffens his resolve.

"If I dwelled on the negatives, would people want me to talk at their schools? No," said Neuts. "I try to speak about the positives and not talk of tragedy. I think it works to massage people's hearts and this helps get my message out there."

With the message being hit so deep, staff and students alike were pleased with the message Neuts delivers to students throughout the province.

"I think the students need to see bullying has a real life impact," said Villanova principal Pat Hickson. "When they sat here and listened to this, it wasn't something they could walk away from."

"If this changes one person's mind, the job has been done because it multiplies. If we take one bully out of the mix, it takes a whole host of people out of the equation."



# Anti-drinking and driving messages promoted through 'Message on a Bottle' campaign

Ron Giofu  
The Amherstburg Echo

RIVER CANARD — Those who make purchases at the Amherstburg LCBO store will get an anti-drinking and driving message thanks to St. Joseph School students.

Hundreds of LCBO bags were decorated and featured many slogans written by students asking people not to drink and drive. It was the eighth straight year St. Joseph School has participated in the campaign and was brought to the school by Grade 7 teacher Val Pelaccia.

The school held its annual assembly at the conclusion of the campaign last Tuesday afternoon. Several local dignitaries were on hand to congratulate the students on the campaign and to further the message not to drink and drive.

"The initiative you have taken at this school is very remarkable," said Mayor Wayne Hurst.

St. Joseph students spoke up and conveyed an important message, he added.

"Rather than do nothing, you saw something needed to be done, something needed to be said and you did that with 'Message on a Bottle,'" said Hurst.

Paul Picard, director of education with the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board, praised Pelaccia for bringing the program to St. Joseph School.



Ron Giofu The Amherstburg Echo

St. Joseph School students show the hundreds of LCBO bags they decorated during the school's eighth annual "Message on a Bottle" campaign on Dec. 20. The bags will be distributed at the LCBO's Amherstburg location.

"This has been a love of his for a long, long time," said Picard.

"The community has benefited tremendously."

Brian Parker, regional manager with LCBO, said the bags are enjoyed by the customers and that many ask for them this time of year. He said he lost a niece in an impaired driving accident 15 years ago and said the messages the students put out are vital.

"We appreciate your efforts very much," he told the students. "You do make a difference with the bags you make. If you save one life, you save a lot."

Essex MPP Taras Natyshak said he was pleased that Pelaccia asked him to be part of this year's assembly.

"What a wonderful event," said Natyshak. "What a powerful message you are sending in this campaign."

Natyshak also told the students they were teachers that day, as they were teaching people to safe around the holidays.

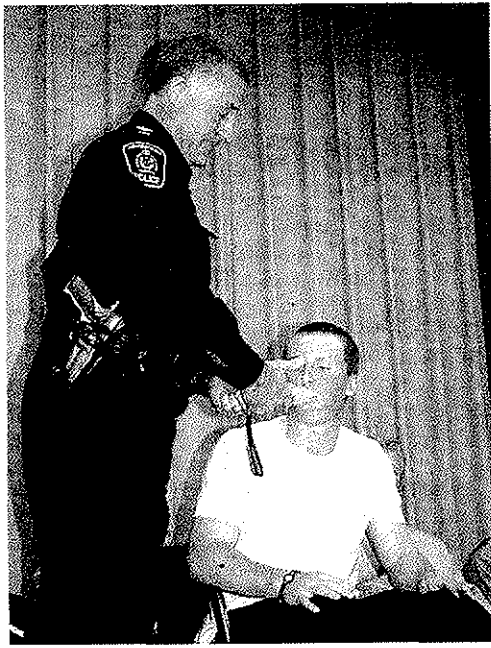
"People listen to kids. You are the voice of our future. You have a really wholesome message," he added. "It's a wonderful, powerful message."

Essex MP Jeff Watson told the students that he lost a friend several years ago when his friend was hit by an impaired driver. He said while the legal penalties are stiff, the greatest cost of impaired driving is human life.

"You may be young but each and every one of you are leaders in your communities at this very moment," said Watson. "Each and every one of you are to be thanked for delivering this message."

Sgt. Mike Cox was also on hand and he demonstrated what happens when police stop a suspected impaired driver. He conducted a mock RIDE program with co-op student Dean Vandermuren and told students what happens if a person is arrested. In addition, Cox told the students about the penalties for an impaired driving conviction, including loss of license, having the vehicle towed, and having a criminal record that could impact future employment opportunities and the ability to cross the border into the U.S. or other countries.

"It affects a lot of things in your life, some of the things we take for granted," said Cox.

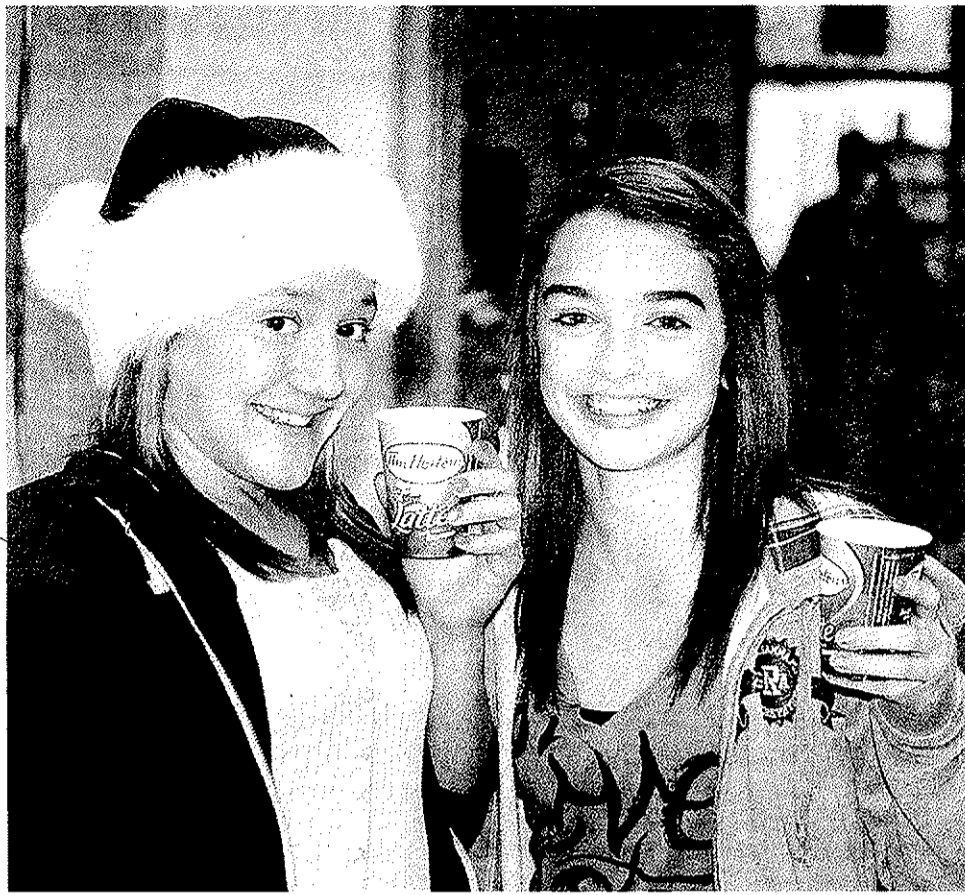


Ron Giofu The Amherstburg Echo

Sgt. Mike Cox and co-op student Déan Vandermuren perform a mock RIDE program at St. Joseph School on Dec. 20. It was part of the school's eighth annual "Message on a Bottle" campaign that saw students decorate LCBO bags with anti-drinking and driving messages.

AMHERSTBURG ECHO DEC 29/11





**LEFT:** Cory Girard and Siena Mitchell enjoy some hot chocolate, compliments of the Trdina family, during the 'St. Pius X Christmas Walk-Through'.

**BELOW:** St. Pius X students hold up their shoeboxes, filled with gifts they collected for the Operation Christmas Child program.



# Operation Christmas Child a success!

## St. Pius X hosts family walk-through

By Patrick McNamara  
Special to Shoreline Week

St. Pius X Catholic School students have been enjoying the Christmas season.

The members of school choir, under the direction of Mrs. Gilman and Mrs. Poisson, sang their hearts out in front of Tecumseh Town Hall on Dec. 2.

All of the students were treated to the talents of the St. Anne's Catholic High School band and a choir a few days later, when they visited the Pacer Dome and performed some Christmas holiday favourites.

The 'Christmas at St. Pius Walk-Through', held on Dec. 14, was a great night for family and friends to gather to view the Christmas displays, listen to the school band led by Mrs. D'Agnolo, the school choir, and enjoy some Timbits and hot chocolate compliments of the Trdina family.

Operation Christmas Child was a huge success. Classrooms loaded shoeboxes with gifts less fortunate than us. In total, 61 boxes full of goodies were donated.

In the meantime, the school is collecting loonies and toonies for the Downtown Mission's Christmas dinner program.

For \$2.97, a complete Christmas dinner can be given to a needy family.

Thanks to Mrs. Dufour, Mrs. Pullo and Mrs. Harris-Reaume for organizing this mission drive. That's the Christmas spirit Pacers!

### Volleyball teams bow out in playoffs

Despite some strong play, the boys' and girls' volleyball teams came up short against some stiff competition in St. Gabriel and Sacred Heart schools.

The team members would like to thank their coaches, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Crough, and Mr. Garbula.

A special thanks to our referees as well, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Crough.

The junior girls' and boys' volleyball teams have been very strong this season.

They are busy until Christmas playing St. William and Sacred Heart.

The girls had a big tournament at École secondaire Lajeunesse last Friday. The boys also had a tournament last Thursday.

Thanks to Mr. Nadon, Mr. Garbula, Mrs. Crough, Mrs. Bachetti and Mrs. Pullo for all of their help this season. Go Pacers!

A "Teachers vs. Students" volleyball game was played on Wednesday. It was

a notoriously vengeful match!

### Spelling bee final held this week

The first round of our school's spelling bee took place on Monday. The finals were on Wednesday. Winners will be announced in the new year!

From all of us at St. Pius X Catholic School, we'd like to wish everyone a very peaceful and blessed Christmas season!