



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Newsletter for Parents and Students

President's Message

December 2018

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)

In a few short weeks, we will celebrate Christmas – the celebration by Christians worldwide of the coming (advent) of Jesus Christ. Advent is a time of waiting and reflecting on the true meaning of our relationship with God and with others. Let's remember all those in our community experiencing illness, loss or struggle and may they be infused with healing, comfort and love. During this time of hustle and bustle, let's also remember to find moments of silence, peace and prayer reminding us of who we are and what's truly important.

SMA turns 150 in 2019!

In response to the local needs and by request of Bishop Taché, St. Mary's Academy was established in 1869 by the Sisters of Charity of Montreal (commonly known as the "Grey Nuns") in the Red River Settlement, which would become the City of Winnipeg. Four

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), who were missioned to St. Mary's Academy from Hochelga, QC., arriving on August 22, 1874. By God's abundant providence and through their legacy of learning, faith, service and leadership that St. Mary's Academy celebrates is 150th Birthday on May 1st, 2019.

Refer to the SMA website, www.smamb.ca for a list of events and activities and please consider joining us for one or more upcoming events and let's discover our SMA story together.

I love this time of the year and I extend my gratitude to our community and the outstanding commitment to our school's mission, vision and guiding principles - to nurture young women in spirit, mind and body!

We are very blessed to have visionary and competent board members under the very wise guidance of Chairs Bob Cox (School Board), Larry Bird (Foundation Board), Ramona Thomson (Parents' Guild) and Stephanie Grabau '07 (Alumnae Association). I deeply appreciate the integrity and wisdom with which they serve our community. To my Cabinet, leaders from all sectors of the organization who faithfully and competently serve each and every day as we strive to be a pre-eminent school for young women – thank you! To our faculty and staff who consistently and passionately teach, guide, coach and support your daughters' educational journey – I am deeply grateful.

Wishing abundant blessings to you and your family for a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas and a happy and very engaging 2019!

Senior School Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Klus

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart. James 5:7

Waiting is part of everyday life: we wait for the next show on Netflix, we wait for a text, we wait for test results and we wait for a baby to be born. Waiting can be tedious and time can seem to move so very slowly; but, there can also be such a sense of fulfillment in pressing the pause button on the busyness of daily life. Waiting is central to the Advent and Christmas season. It is an opportunity to experience a spiritual waiting and a chance to recognize His presence in our lives.

This is both a magnificent and very hectic time of year. The drama production has just finished, all of the sports teams are performing very well, our debaters are out there debating and our Con Fuoco and Con Spiritu choirs and Strings club have their annual performance on December 19th. We are so very fortunate to have such talented and dedicated students and advisors in our midst.

Students will be completing the first round of their MYA's (Mid-Year Assessments) from December 13th –17th and will be preparing for the second round, which occurs from January 17th–22nd. Grade 12's will write their Provincial ELA Exams from January 8th-11th. Even though students are busy preparing for their assessments, I sincerely hope that they take time to slow down and enjoy the gifts of the season.

Wishing you all God's abundant blessings during this ADVENT season of faith, love and hope! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Junior School Principal's Message

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie (van Es '80)

The Christmas season is upon us, and it is amazing to see the growth in our junior students since the start of the year. We continue to witness their journey in learning as they develop their abilities in communicating, critical thinking, collaborating and creating. Along the way, they have faced increased challenges, improved their ability to persevere and have learned how to become more resilient as well as how to celebrate their achievements with joy. After a well-deserved Christmas holiday break, January will bring the second half of our Mid-Year Assessment period, and more opportunities to continue to grow.

Our junior students are such a joy to work with. As adults, we are witness to their commitment to citizenship, character and community-building. Our youngest students have fully immersed themselves in a wide array of activities, from our recent Drama production, to our athletics teams, to the choir, or to one of our many clubs. This group of young ladies step up to help out at school events and are eager to share their enthusiasm and be of service to the greater community. It is quite heartwarming to see their awareness of others' needs grow and their efforts to make a difference for others.

As we take time to celebrate with our families and faith communities this Christmas season, I wish you all the very best of Christmas blessings. May your hearts be open to celebration and joy, and may the New Year bring your family contentment and peace.



150th Birthday Prayer

God of all Generations,

We praise and thank you for the community of St. Mary's Academy. All that we have and all that we are has been inspired by your Holy Spirit and guided by Mary, our Patroness.

Since 1869, you have blessed us with
passionate leaders and visionaries;
devoted educators and students;
loyal communities of family, faith, and friends.

You continue to call women to "Hold High the Torch" of Learning, Faith, Service, and Leadership, while reaching their fullest potential as created in Your image and likeness.

May we remain faithful to our foundation of education in the faith, with special concern for those most in need.

We trust that You will bless us with a future that is full of hope, abundant with possibilities, and rich in diversity.

We make this prayer in the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Amen

Charism and Mission

Sr. Michelle Garlinski '88, SNJM

"We follow in the footsteps of Mary as Disciple".

This is the theme that closed the 175th Anniversary Year of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary on December 8th.

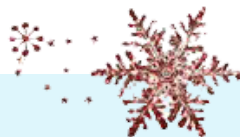
"We, as a Congregation dedicated to the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, have been Disciples like Mary for 175 years. Our anniversary year closes with a spirit of hope, hope that those whose lives have been touched by our commitment to them, will inspire them to carry the flame of Discipleship wherever they walk in their days on Mother Earth."

This reflection and theme are reminders that we, as an SNJM school, are also called to be "Disciples Like Mary". Advent is a good time for us to reflect on the person of Mary, as she is a primary figure in the scripture stories this season and the Patroness of our school. Mary's willingness to be open to how God was calling her to share her gifts, her deep sense of fidelity to Jesus, and her faithfulness to carry on the mission with the disciples, serves as a model for all of us.

This Advent, in the midst of the hustle and bustle of baking, shopping, cleaning and visiting, take time to pause. How am I open to sharing my gifts in the ways that seem most unlikely? Do I give thanks to God for all that I have and know that I have been blessed? Do my actions and words share the Good News in a world in such need of it? Reflecting on these questions and finding ways to follow Mary's example in our daily lives are ways that we, as an SNJM School, can follow in the footsteps of Mary. As we approach our 150th Birthday, let's take time this Advent to discover our story, rooted in the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

As a tool to help us on this journey, we are blessed to have our 150th Birthday Prayer. We encourage you to place it on your fridge or other accessible location. May our prayer be a sign of our solidarity and constant gratitude to God for the gift of St. Mary's Academy. Our heartfelt thanks to Laura Patterson '08, Stephanie George '08, Michelle Gnutel '80, Sr. Marylyn Gibney SNJM who worked with me and contributed their time and wisdom in creating the prayer.

A blessed Christmas to you!



Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)

"A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11.1)

Roots are an important part of a tree. As a community this year, counting down to our 150th birthday, we have been focusing on learning our roots, and discovering our story. We often get so wrapped up with the business of the day, running from one thing to another, that we forget to reflect on where we have been or where we are going. As we journey through Advent to Christmas, we are encouraged to slow down, and to pause and reflect, which we will do this year with the help of the Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree represents the family tree of Jesus, with each ornament representing a Bible story which leads us towards His birth. As we share these stories each day, we pray that we pause and look at our own lives to see on whose shoulders we stand. You can find the Jesse Tree in the chapel!

In our ongoing campus ministry, the staff and students have been privileged to be a part of several AMS@SMA activities. Students have assisted at Villa Rosa, wrapping gifts for the women and children who live in the community, and have been Angels on the Bridge in support of the Misericordia Health Centre. We also look forward to assisting West Broadway Youth Outreach later in the month.

Students continue to serve weekly with Harvest Thursday and the J-Walkers continue their ministry at Gonzaga Middle School and The Welcome Home. We also continue to pray together each Wednesday morning in the Chapel. Our Club L.E.M.O.N group is busy making cards for the people at Résidence Despina, where our Choirs and Strings Club will be performing later this month.

Finally, on December 18th we will have an Advent Come and Go Reconciliation service for staff and students in the Chapel.

As we continue preparing to celebrate our legacy this season and learn our story, we pray that your Advent journey is rooted in faith, joy and hope.



Blessings and love to your family over this holy season!
Merry Christmas!

From The Advancement & Admissions Office

Mrs. Kerri Moore (McIvor '94)

Open for Business Over the Holidays

The Advancement Office is open December 27th, 28th and 31st and January 2 – 4, 2019.

Please consider giving the gift of education this Christmas! Our Foundress, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, believed that an entire society can be transformed if the minds and hearts of young women are nurtured. A donation to the **Mother Marie-Rose Bursary Fund** at SMA will help to educate young women in spirit, mind and body.

Donations may be made by clicking on the "Canada Helps" link at www.smamb.ca/support-us/donate-today. If your donation is in honour of someone special this holiday season, include their name and mailing address in the comment section and we will send them an acknowledgement on your behalf!

We are thoroughly enjoying our recruitment visits to our parochial schools throughout December and January, meeting with some very eager future SMA girls! We're looking forward to hosting our **Open House on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.** Our Open House is a wonderful time for prospective families and students to tour our beautiful campus, engage with our enthusiastic students and staff and discover what St. Mary's Academy has to offer. **Deadline for new applications is February 5, 2019.**



Wine Donations for An Evening at the Academy

We are asking our community for 100 bottles of wine, valued at \$20 or more per bottle, to be donated to the "You Had Me at Merlot" wine wall, in support of SMA's Deo Gratias Fund. Drop your bottle off at the

Administration Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Your donated bottle will be wrapped, numbered and sold for \$25 at An Evening at the Academy. If you have questions, please contact Kerri Moore at kmoores@smamb.ca or at 204-478-6031. Check out our website at www.smamb.ca/events/an-evening-at-the-academy/EAA2019/deo-gratias/ for an offer from DeLuca Fine Wines in support of the Deo Gratias Fund, which helps to provide financial support to SMA students who may be experiencing economic difficulties

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year!

From the Accounting Office

Mrs. Richelle Friesen (St. Croix '03)



The accounting office will be closed December 24, 2018 to January 2, 2019.

For those families who chose Plan B, please remember that your final payment will be withdrawn from your account January 2, 2019.

Charitable donation receipts for the 2017-2018 school year, for inclusion with your 2018 tax return, are being prepared and will be mailed in February. Receipts for the 2018-2019 school year, for inclusion with your 2019 tax return, will be issued in February 2020.

From the Alumnae Office

Ms. Amy Houston '03

And just like that it's December!

On Thursday, November 15 we were pleased to have the Alumnae in Business Networking Committee host their second annual "Celebrating SMA Alumnae in Business" event. The event allowed for mingling followed by an inspiring panel discussion with Heidi Reimer-Epp ('89), Lisa-Marie Buccini ('97), and Giovanna Minenna ('08), hosted by Catherine David (Marquez '01). The experience and insight from each generation was very engaging. The event was another sell out with more than 75 alumnae in attendance!

The following evening, former teacher Linda Dart led the SMA Alumnae Association's **Kitchen Party**, where guests enjoyed a hands-on evening of making "poppycock". Participants rolled up their sleeves with Mrs. Dart and got crafty with Clothing and Textiles teacher Carmen Sichewski ('86) making Christmas gift tags. Lots of laughs were shared! Thank you to all the attendees for another great event.

On Thursday, November 22, over 75 Grade 11 and 12 students participated in "Ask An Alum". The library was bustling with small groups of students gathered around 15 alumnae engaging in meaningful, casual conversations about transitioning to University life. There wasn't a slice of pizza left over, so it must have been a successful day!

Most recently, the SMA Alumnae Association hosted a lovely **December Celebration** on Sunday, December 2nd. The Mass celebrated the first Sunday of Advent as well as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which was followed by a Christmas tea. Many families of the SMA community enjoyed the festive décor and great company in the Sister Susan Wikeem Boardroom. Thank you to all of those who joined us.

Looking ahead to the end of the year, we are excited to host the Class of 2018 for "**Drinks Under the Dome**" on December 18th. Our newest graduates will have the opportunity to visit with one another and pick up their yearbooks. On December 19th we host the **Alumnae Hockey game** at the BellMTS Iceplex. Graduated or "retired" alumnae hockey players are welcome to play. Please secure your spot on the alumnae roster by emailing ahouston@smamb.ca.

Blessings to you and your family this Christmas season and Happy New Year!

Holiday Reception Hours

Monday, December 24, 2018
to Tuesday, January 1, 2019 Closed

Wednesday, January 2, 2019
to Friday, January 4, 2019 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

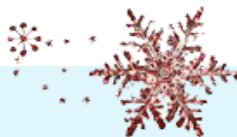
Corner Store

Mrs. Tammy Zach

Just in time for the holidays, get a custom SMA pillow for only \$35 (regular \$50) in navy, grey or white. One size fits all! Available while quantities last. The Corner Store is also offering a fabulous deal on prepaid \$10

TCBY cards – get 5 for the price of 4! These make excellent stocking stuffers and are great to round out gifts that just need a little something else to be perfect.

Our holiday shopping hours are Monday, December 17th from 2:30-4:30 pm and Tuesday, December 18th from 8:15-9:00 am.



Drama Department

Ms. Laura Davey ('05) (Artistic Producer)

A big congratulations goes out to the cast and crew of this year's Drama Production, **Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka**, which played to full houses from November 28th to December 1st! So much went into this production from so many different teams and crews. From our behind the scenes workers, to our stage crew and actors, and to the PR department, everyone worked so hard to deliver a wonderful 2018 production!

The amazing hair and makeup team painted 34 Oompa Loompas every day, the tech crew delivered wonderful visual magic, and the sets and props departments created each scene beautifully. The PR department ran a flawless intermission and advertising campaign, our stage crew helped us tell the story smoothly, and, of course, our wonderful and talented actors gave it their all and brought this magical journey to life!



Congratulations to all involved and thank you to the numerous volunteers who helped us make this journey so memorable!

Volleyball/Indoor Soccer Report

Mrs. Jennifer O'Leary (Heywood '85)

The 2018-19 Indoor Soccer Season is underway thanks to Coach/Parent Denis Tsai. The team is undefeated in the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association High School Division and, in just its third year of participation, continues to develop into a force to be reckoned with. Thank you to all those involved and see the SMA Website for game times and locations. Go Flames Soccer GO!

All 8 teams, 90 athletes, 2 teachers and 13 volunteers are neatly folding and putting away volleyball uniforms, storing knee pads on the top shelf and hanging up their volleyball court shoes. On December 8, 2018 the St. Mary's Volleyball season came to a close. All teams experienced a wide variety of success and positive experiences on and off the court, establishing new relationships, maintaining old ones, learning about volleyball, and developing active healthy lifestyle practices.

Here is a run-down of how our teams finished their seasons:

- * 43 Grade 7-12 students participated in Mike Burchuk's (former Canadian Women's National Team coach) St. Mary's Volleyball Academy
- * 60 Grade 7 athletes have participated in 4 friendly developmental tournaments within the Pembina Trails School Division
- * The Grade 7 Traveling team participated in the Grade 8 Diggers league and finished in the top four in the Pembina Trails Athletic Association Championship. This team was coached by former Canadian National Men's Volleyball team athlete and parent Scott Koskie.

- * The Grade 8 Team participated in the Grade 8 Spikers league with the Pembina Trails Athletic Association coached by Jen O'Leary.
- * The Grade 9 Team coached by Megan Ross and Shelby Ross won the Pembina Trails Athletic Association Championships and finished in the Top 4 at the Volleyball Manitoba Provincial Championships.
- * The Junior Varsity Team finished in the top 4 in the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship, playing an amazing match against The Steinbach Sabres to advance to the MHSAA Provincial Championships where they moved up the rankings and finished in the top ten. Thank you to coaches Leanne Leskiw and Ellen Enns.
- * The Varsity Team participated in the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Championships to finish in the league top four. The team was granted a wildcard into the 2018-19 MHSAA Provincial Championships as the 8th seed. Congratulations to Anna Maidment who was named in the Winnipeg Sun Top 10 High School Volleyball Players for the 2018-19 season and won the Players Choice Award and was presented this outstanding achievement at the MHSAA Girls Final. Thank you to Coaches Marshall Lawrence and Mike Maidment for their endless dedication to volleyball at SMA.

A HUGE thank you to all the volunteer coaches, parents, teachers, Administration, fans, and athletes who so generously supported our Volleyball program this year. A very large and overwhelming amount of time, effort, commitment and dedication was devoted to the 2018-19 Volleyball Program and the Athletic Department would like to thank everyone for their continued support of the athletes and coaches in their quests for success.

Flames Prep Hockey Team Starting to Roll

Mr. Dave Chell

The St. Mary's Academy Flames Prep team began its eighth year with an especially young team, which is now really starting to round into form. The team has moved from fifth to third in their eight team league. The team recently reeled off a 3-1-1 league weekend in Calgary and go into the Christmas break with a record of 7-3-1 in the month of November.

The Flames have had an extremely busy fall, with weekend tournaments in Stoney Creek, Ontario, Minnesota, as well as Canadian Sport School Hockey League weekends in Penticton and Vancouver. The Flames also hosted a very successful league weekend in Winnipeg at our home Iceplex facility, where they put up a 3-0-2 record that included an exhilarating showcase game against first place powerhouse Pursuit of Excellence, which went to a shootout.

The Flames Prep team has now won 13 of its 32 games, taking several of their losses to overtime or shootouts. To kick off 2019, the team returns to Alberta to play in Calgary and Edmonton. 16 teams (double last year!) will participate in our seventh annual Female World Sport School Challenge from January 31-February 2nd. To finish the year, CSSHL championship playoffs take place in Penticton from March 8-11th.

Three of our graduating Flames veterans have announced exciting plans for their future hockey careers. Captain Sarah Dennehy and Assistant Captain Kate Gregoire will be donning the Bisons brown and gold, and goaltender Julianna Thomson will be heading east to play for the York University Lions. Congratulations and thank you to all the parents, players, and coaches for their continued commitment to SMA hockey!



Top female hockey players hit the ice chasing gold at St. Mary's Academy's 7th annual Female World Sport School Challenge
January 31 to February 3, 2019
Bell MTS Iceplex

Come watch the SMA Flames as they defend their Female World Sport School Challenge title against 15 top teams from across North America.

www.fwssc.ca



Parents' Guild

Mrs. Ramona Thomson

Happy December! It's hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner. The Parents' Guild has been busy this fall. We just completed the second of two of our biggest fundraisers of the year on November 16 with the Cash Raffle draw. Thank you to all families who supported the Guild and purchased tickets for this major fundraiser. We also had great success with International Day 2018 in October; we were able to raise over \$7500, which will go directly toward funding items and activities to enhance our daughters' educational experience at SMA.

The Parents' Guild would also like to thank all those parents who came out to our annual Guild Christmas party to support Handbags for Hope. We had a lovely evening of friendship and cheer while we assembled handbags for women in need in our community. We hope these bags bring Christmas joy to the women who will receive this gift from our SMA parent community.

We are already in full planning mode for our February presentation of Torch Talks; please stay tuned for more information in the New Year. As we close out 2018, we at the Guild would like to extend warm holiday wishes to all our SMA families, with a special thanks to all of you who volunteer and make everything we do for our daughters and our community at the Guild possible.

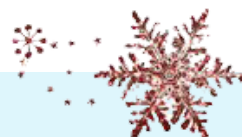
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Track and Field

Mr. Demetro Danyluk

The St. Mary's indoor track and field season training has started, but it's never too late to join! We hold practices in the mornings, at lunch hour, and during students' spares. In the New Year, the Senior team will participate in five meets, while the Junior team will compete in four meets at the University of Manitoba.

However, training with the track and field team doesn't have to be solely for competition! Students often join to have fun, improve their fitness, cross-train for other athletics, and to prepare for the outdoor track and field season! Please see Mr. Danyluk if you are interested in training and competing.





An Evening at the Academy



An Evening at the Academy
is a progressive dining experience that will take you
through time and space within St. Mary's Academy's historic walls.

Cocktails and appetizers in the 1902 facility

Dinner in the 1963 wing

Dessert and music in the 2013 Sheila Chipman Atrium

— Net proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Academy Bursary Fund —

Saturday, January 26, 2019

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. | Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent

Black Tie Optional

Tickets are 95% Sold Out

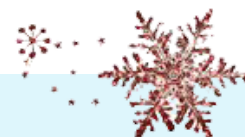
Individual Tickets: \$195 each

[Click here to purchase](#)

Student Tickets: \$100 each

Table Packages Available

To purchase these, contact Kerri Moore at
kmoore@smamb.ca or 204-478-6031.



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY



Open House

January 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Academy, a Catholic school in the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, is poised to celebrate 150 years of educating in a faith-based environment. Our legacy of learning, faith, service and leadership defines the Academy as a preeminent girls' school where students graduate empowered with knowledge, aware of their gifts, possess a desire for excellence in all endeavours, and embrace a sense of social responsibility to use their abilities in the service of others.

New student applications due February 5, 2019

Applications accepted for all grades, with major entry points in Grades 7 & 9

Financial assistance available

All faiths welcome

550 Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg, MB, R3M 0C1 | 204-477-0244

www.smamb.ca | facebook.com/smawinnipeg | instagram.com/smawinnipeg | twitter.com/smawpg



Educating young women spirit, mind and body