

Newsletter

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends

NEWS

August 2016

President's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



Welcome back SMA community!

I hope you have had a restful summer. We certainly are ready to welcome all students and families back for another year! Thanks to the efforts and coordination of our

Maintenance department, our school is sparkling from the basement to the fourth floor! New lockers in the basement, new counter tops in science and foods labs, new lighting in cafeteria, new 21st century furniture in classroom and other learning spaces and freshly waxed hardwood floors on the second floor from the Holy Names

Chapel to the 1963 doors (room 200) are examples of how the school has been upgraded over the past two months.

I am delighted to share with you that with the support and endorsement of the SNJM and the St. Mary's Academy Board of Directors, SMA has adopted a new Administration Team Model. Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie will be Acting Junior School Principal (Grades 7 and 8) and Mrs. Michelle Klus will be Acting Senior School Principal (Grades 9 to 12). This restructuring aims to better support the needs and outcomes of our 5-Year Strategic Plan which will be launched in January 2017. We also welcome back Sr. Michelle Garlinski, SNJM as Director of Charism and Mission, Mr. Noel Rautert and Mrs. Catherine David to our Science and Math department, Ms. Laura Davey to our Theatre Arts program and Mrs. Julie Biggs as our new Con Fuoco choir credit music program.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon; wishing you many blessings for a successful and healthy year ahead!

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Senior School Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Klus



Welcome all parents and students to the new school year. I am very excited and honored to be your Senior High Principal. This year we are called to be **People of Hope**. This is a theme that will permeate every facet of school life. Hope is an attitude that looks for possibilities in whatever experiences life may deal us. Life is dynamic, change is inevitable, and to approach life with Hope essentially enables us to use our experiences and challenges as a springboard for future action.

It is my goal to work with the faculty, parents and students to create a rich learning environment. I believe that success is a shared responsibility; a joint venture between St. Mary's Academy and home. The foundation of a successful school is the cooperation between the students, faculty, parents and community. It is my hope that you will meet any challenges with determination and excitement and celebrate all that makes everyone special.

I encourage you to check the SMA school website stmarysacademy.mb.ca on a regular basis for updates and a list of upcoming events and other important school dates. I sincerely look forward to working with you and developing a relationship that will assist in the growth of your daughter. The year promises to be filled with opportunities to both stretch us as well as promote growth.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Junior School Principal's Message

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



Such an exciting time of year for all of us: a new school year of learning and growth for our students, an opportunity for our faculty to interact with new students that they may not have yet met, new friends to make, new encounters to experience, new adventures to enjoy! As Dr. Seuss said; "Oh...the places you'll go!"

As we are called to be a **People of Hope**, your daughter will be exposed to new ideas, new depths of self-awareness, and a better understanding of how "Hope anchors the soul." (Hebrews 6:19) as she moves forward in her own personal journey with greater confidence and resilience.

I look forward to journeying with your daughters as they experience their junior years as part of the St. Mary's Academy community. The year promises to be filled with many blessings for us all! Welcome to all as we begin the new school year together.



August 2016



School Opening

New Students

New Student Orientation takes place on **Wednesday, September 7, 2016**

9:00 a.m. - All new students meet in Alumnae Hall.

9:15 a.m. - Students meet with their homeroom teachers until 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. - School Orientation Tours take place with SMA's "In the Navy" Ambassador Team.

11:00 a.m. - Dismissal

Note that uniforms are *not* required for Orientation morning.

All Students

Classes begin for all students on **Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., Day 1.**

Homeroom lists will be posted in the cafeteria by 7:30 a.m. Students are to proceed directly to their homeroom for 8:30 a.m. for opening exercises, locker distribution, timetable and agenda distribution.

- Full winter or summer uniform is required.
- Bring school supplies.
- The cafeteria will be open.
- Opening Mass, Alumnae Hall at 2:00 p.m.

Strings Club

SMA's Strings Club will have their first session on Mon, Sep 19, and will practice on Mondays from 3:45-5:00 p.m. at SMA. All levels of musicians are welcome. There are 30 sessions in total throughout the year. The cost will be determined based on how many students are interested. For more information, contact the school office at 204-477-0244.

TARTAN SHOP

Fall Uniform Sale

September 6 & 7, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Cash, debit, visa and mastercard accepted (cheques not accepted).

Starting Friday, September 9, 2016 the Tartan Shop will be open on Fridays during the lunch hour.

High School Hockey Tryouts

Sept 12: 4:40 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.

Sept 14: 5:05 p.m. – 6:05 p.m.

Sept 15: 5:00 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.

All tryouts held at the MTS Iceplex
See homepage of stmarysacademy.mb.ca to download tryout registration form.

Private Music Lessons

If you are interested in private piano, music theory or beginner guitar lessons at St. Mary's Academy, please call Sister Josephine Chudzik at 204-284-3309.

Important General Information

Administration

Acting Senior School Principal

Mrs. Michelle Klus is responsible for all activities and academic programs in Grades 9 to 12.

Acting Junior School Principal

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie is responsible for all activities and academic programs for students in Grades 7 and 8.

School Calendar

A calendar of major events is available on the SMA website. The calendar outlines important dates including **two major assessment periods in December/January and June**. All students are expected to be present during the assessment periods. A doctor's certificate is required to verify illness or absence during the assessment periods. Parents are asked **NOT** to book

holidays or time away from school during these periods. If a student misses a mid-year assessment it will affect the value of their final mark.

School-wide Retreat/Rally (Retrally), Reflection Days and Liturgies

These are important, mandatory community-building events for all students. Kindly become familiar with the school calendar and do not make any appointments on these dates.

Student Timetables, Student Agendas, Lockers and Locks

These will be distributed during the first homeroom period on Thursday, September 8. The agenda includes the school calendar, general school information, policies and procedures, and student information. Please take time to read through the front section of the agenda to familiarize yourself with SMA policies and procedures.

Textbooks

On the first day of classes, subject teachers issue numbered textbooks to each student. Each assigned textbook is the responsibility of the student to whom it is assigned. In June 2017, students are responsible for returning assigned textbooks in accordance with the following procedures:

Non-exam courses: to the subject teacher at the last class.

Exam courses: prior to the final exam in a designated classroom.

Students who do not return textbooks as indicated or who have damaged or lost textbooks must pay the replacement cost in June 2017.

SMA Website: stmarysacademy.mb.ca

Check our website for the following information: 2015-2017 school calendar, school supply list, parking application, daily bulletin, newsletters, photos and current/relevant information and events.

August 2016

Important Dates

Opening Mass

Friday, September 9
2:00 p.m.
Alumnae Hall
Parents welcome

Parent Information Afternoon

Friday, September 9
3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Cafeteria

Join us to mix-and-mingle with our community and informally meet your daughter's teachers. Parents of new students will formally meet at 4:00 p.m. with Grades 7/8 in Alumnae Hall, and grade 9 in Durocher Library. Refreshments and light snacks provided. We look forward to meeting you!

Picture Day

Tuesday, September 13

Grade 12 Reflection Day

Wednesday, September 14

This is a regularly scheduled school day at an off-site location and attendance is mandatory. The day will end at approx. 6:15 p.m. with closing prayer. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to attend.

Grade 9 Welcome Day

Friday, September 16
1:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Workshops and activities are planned to facilitate the transition for all Grade 9 students. All students are strongly recommended to remain until the end of the event. More details to follow.

Grade 7 Camp

September 21-23. Camp information was emailed to parents of Grade 7 students. If you require further information, contact Mrs. Swayzie at caswayzie@smamb.ca.

Parents' Guild After School Special

Thursday, September 22
7:00 p.m.

Sheila Chipman Atrium

RSVP to parentpartysvp@stmarysacademy.mb.ca by September 8.

New parents/guardians will have an opportunity to gather together and participate in conversations regarding your daughters' transition to the SMA community.

Walk for Cancer

Thursday, September 22. SMA students will participate in the annual *Walk for Cancer*. A \$10 flat fee will be collected from each student for a donation and to defray costs for student-led activities. More details to follow.

Head Girl Speeches and Election

September 26-29

Interested candidates from our Student Leadership team will be speaking to our student body in preparation for election day on September 29.

Mother Marie-Rose Week

October 3-October 7. Week dedicated to celebrating the Foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Service Learning Fair

Thursday, October 13

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All students from grades 7 to 12 will attend the **Service Learning Fair**. Service organizations from around Winnipeg will be present in the school, educating students about the mission of their organization and where service opportunities are available.

Project El Salvador

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90) and Miss Rebecca Mandrick

On June 30th 2016 "Team El Salvador" left for our Mission Trip Our to Huisisilapa, El Salvador. Our team consisted of 18 students from grades 10-12, along with teachers Ms. Janet Zonneveld, Mrs. Joanne Steeves, and Miss Rebecca Mandrick. We were later joined by Mrs. Connie Yunyk, SMA's President.

Upon arrival into the small but resilient village of Huisisilapa, our team was warmly welcomed and fully embraced by the community, especially the children. We were shown the site of our project: building a water retention wall to protect the church from the river as well as a Sacristy to store the sacred vessels.

Students worked in teams alongside the village volunteers. Using pick-axes and shovels, we dug trenches for the wall footing. We hauled a thousand cinder blocks, five thousand rocks and mixed cement by hand. The

days were long, hot and hard but the spirit of the girls and the happiness and love of the community kept the work moving and participants smiling.

At the end of every work day we were rewarded with our favorite activity, playing with the children. Frisbees, skipping rope, soccer and stickers brought hours of joy to not only the children but to the girls.

Our evening reflections confirmed how much of an impact the community of Huisisilapa was having on each of us. Many students talked about how they were inspired by the children's resiliency and strength but also worried of what growing up would be like for them. Others talked of gaining better appreciation of their lives back in Canada. Some talked of how they were empowered by their ability to actually work on such an intense project. All of them voiced how they wanted to take what they had learned during this experience and enact some form of change back home in their lives and community. Clearly, the country of El Salvador was forever changing each member of the 2016 team.

On the weekend we toured the city of San Salvador with the St. Paul's High School team, taking in the culture of this small Central American country. The students were inspired by the struggle of Oscar Romero and the people of El Salvador. We visited the Monument to Truth and Memory. As well, we were able to visit Bishop Romero's crypt and very simple home.

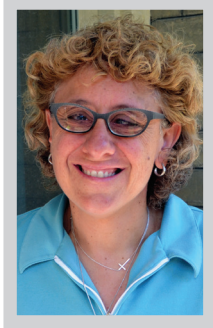
Leaving El Salvador was difficult for all of us. The students were sad to say goodbye to the new friends they had made, and wanted to do more for a community that seemed to have so little compared to what they had at home. It was clear that each of us had been changed by our time in Huisisilapa, and we will always carry this experience with us.

We thank the SMA Community, the SNJMs and all of our friends and family who supported Team El Salvador. It was only through your love and support we were able to do this. Thank you for your donations of time or money and your many prayers. You, like the people of Huisisilapa, will always have a piece of our heart.

August 2016

Charism and Mission Office

Sr. Michelle Garlinski '88, SNJM



Welcome to the **Charism and Mission Office** at St. Mary's Academy. Although this is a new office, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) Charism and Mission are not new. The Charism and

Mission office is about how we share the gift of our heritage—the gifts of the SNJM Congregation that were given to Blessed Mother Marie-Rose Durocher (foundress of the SNJM), by God. She shared her passion and vision of education in the faith, with an emphasis to those most in need, was the spirit that propelled and guided our four founding Manitoba SNJM to build our historic and foundational school. It is our responsibility and privilege to

continue to ensure that the Spirit (Charism) and its many expressions (Mission) continue to flourish. Mother Marie-Rose relied heavily on Jesus and Mary, which is why the SNJM motto, "Jesus and Mary my strength and my glory" will lead us as we embark on this new chapter of our story at SMA. I look forward to collaborating with our Students, Staff, Parents, Alumnae and Boards as we share the treasure of St. Mary's Academy, our "pearl of great price" (Matt 13:45) as **People of Hope**.

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)

Welcome to a new school year! I am delighted to once again be working with such a wonderful group of people and look forward to our year together.

This year as **People of Hope**, the Campus Ministry team is excited to "Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world" - Pope Francis.

Even before summer comes to an end, we are gathering in small groups to plan and prepare for the many events Campus Ministry is involved in for the new school year. Some of the many activities coming up are as follows:

Youth Leader

Youth Leader is a four day Christian Leadership workshop which will be held at

St. Benedicts Retreat Center, September 1 to 4. Participants will gather to learn and grow in this unique experience that will help empower them to serve as leaders in our community.

Grade 12 Reflection Day

Grade 12 Reflection Day takes place on Wednesday, September 14. Grade 12 students, please be sure to complete the consent form and return it by September 12 to your homeroom teachers. Parents are reminded to join us at 6:15 p.m. at Camp Assiniboia for closing prayer and the blessing of our Grade 12 students.

Mother Marie-Rose Week

During **Mother Marie-Rose Week** we celebrate and honour Mother Marie-Rose, the foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

Wednesday Morning Prayer begins on October 12 at 8:00 a.m. and takes place each Wednesday. Parents and families are welcome to join us in Holy Names Chapel (2nd floor of the Administration Building).

Service Fair

Our annual **Service Fair** takes place on Thursday, October 13. This Fair gives students an opportunity to talk to representatives from various organizations, and learn about the many service opportunities available to them.

Harvest Thursday

Each Thursday from Thanksgiving until May long weekend, a small group of students accompanied by a teacher, lend-a-hand serving groceries to people at the Unitarian Universalist Church (a Winnipeg Harvest satellite distribution location).

Message from the SMA Parents' Guild

Mrs. Candace Partyka

Hello SMA families! I hope you are enjoying the last days of summer. A few reminders from the Parents' Guild:

Volunteer Registration

New and returning parents, please complete your volunteer registration online. Go to stmarysacademy.mb.ca and click on 'Parents' and follow the prompts. Sign-up to suit your schedule. Volunteer once or lots!

Coming events

Corner Store Re-opening September 6

Re-opening of the newly renovated Corner Store.

Parents' Guild Meeting and AGM

September 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Durocher Library
All welcome

After School Special

September 22 at 7:00 p.m.

New parents/guardians will have an opportunity to gather together and participate in conversations regarding your daughters' transition to the SMA community. RSVP by September 8 to parentpartyrsvp@stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

If you have any questions related to the Parents' Guild, please contact me at partyka@mts.net. I look forward to seeing you in September!

Bingo

One of the ways the SMA Parents' Guild raises money is by participating in bingos throughout the school year.

Facts

- \$16,000 to \$18,000 raised per year for SMA
- Money goes towards enhancing programming and activities for your daughter and capital funds (students desks & chairs, Smart Boards)
- 20 bingos per school year are assigned to SMA
- 2 volunteers are needed for each bingo: parents, grandparents and friends welcome (18+)
- Each bingo is a 3 hour commitment
- Easy to volunteer: sign up online at stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/parents/volunteering_parents_guild/
- Grandparents welcome to volunteer!

August 2016

Christine Skublics Scholarships and Awards

Each year scholarships are given in memory of *Mrs. Christine Skublics* who was a teacher at St. Mary's Academy and our Principal from 1985-1990. The students awarded these scholarships have obtained the highest academic average for their particular grade level.

Recipients of the Christine Skublics Scholarships:

Grade 9

Bethany Kolisniak

Grade 10

Claire Healey

Grade 11

Séline Audino

Recipients of the Christine Skublics Award for second and third highest in each grade:

Grade 9

Emma Callback & Roan Boughton

Grade 10

Kiara Calista & Danielle Sneesby

Grade 11

Linnéa Cox & Madison Maurice

Bob Ritchie Scholarship

The *Bob Ritchie Scholarship* is for Academic Achievement and Outstanding Involvement at SMA, as established by the Ritchie Family.

The award winner must be in Grade 11 and returning for Grade 12 in the fall, must be an honours student and must be involved in the school community.

Bob Ritchie Scholarship Recipient:

Mackenzie DeiCont

SMA Corner Store

Hours of Operation

Open school days from 12:30-1:30 p.m. starting September 12, 2016

Come check out the newly renovated Corner Store! Drop in Sept 6 & 7 and see all the new merchandise.

Cash and cheques accepted.

Donations of new or gently used SMA uniforms accepted.

Cocktails on the Crescent

Saturday, November 19, 2016

7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Art Auction at 9:30 p.m.)

Everyone is invited to enjoy and share in this wonderful evening hosted on the 2nd floor of the 1902 building at SMA. Evening will include an Art Auction, catered appetizers, desert table, cash wine bar and so much more. Tickets are \$50 and available for purchase later in the fall. Hosted by the SMA Alumnae Association.

International Day

Celebrate the diversity and culture of the SMA community while enjoying a variety of ethnic food, live entertainment, a bake sale, a rainbow auction and an art auction.

Sunday, November 6, 2016

Mass in Alumnae Hall at 10:30 a.m.

Pavilions begin serving food at 11:30 a.m.

International Day Raffle

The annual SMA International Day Raffle is coming up! Raffle tickets are distributed to each student at the end of September. Last year the Parent Guild raised over \$20,000 through the Raffle. Funds raised are used to benefit students. Your best effort to sell tickets is greatly appreciated!

International Day Raffle Details

Draw Date: Sun, Nov 6, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

Location: 550 Wellington Crescent

Cash Prizes

1st prize: \$2,500.00

2nd prize: \$1,500.00

3rd prize: \$1,000.00

Individual ticket price: \$5.00

7,500 tickets printed

2016 HOMECOMING



2016 Homecoming: Saturday, October 1, 2016

Commemorative Years Breakfast Reception

9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. | SMA Cafeteria | \$20 per person

For alumnae from the Classes of 1936, 1946, 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2006, 2011

To reserve seating, contact Amy Houston at ahouston@smamb.ca or 204-478-6031 before September 23rd.

Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting: 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Alumnae Hall

Mass: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Alumnae Hall

"Welcome Home" Alumnae and Friends Celebration: 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

SMA will be open for viewing and reminiscing. Alumnae, friends and families welcome.