

Newsletter

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends

NEWS

December 2015

President's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



I extend my thanks and gratitude to all who contributed to the success of *Annie*: the cast, crew, musicians, teachers, support staff, parent volunteers, sponsors and of course,

Joy Beauchamp our Director and Martha MacKinnon our Producer. Despite the fatigue of many demanding months of evening and weekend preparation and four well attended performances, spirits are still running high (I have personally heard students wondering out loud what next year's performance will be!).

Congratulations also to the SMA Parents' Guild with a special mention to *International Day* co-conveners Claudia Davies and Ramona Thomson for another successful event held on November 8. It takes a large number of committed volunteers to

make such a community event so successful; I am humbled by the attendance record set this year! I would be remiss if I did not also extend my gratitude to Mary Fustey and Eileen Eng for their superb efforts with the SMA Cash Raffle – another record-breaking activity!

Our volleyball program has experienced widespread success this year and our teams have won an unprecedented three championships at the Varsity, Grade 7 and Grade 8 levels. My heartfelt appreciation is extended to our committed student athletes, our knowledgeable and empowering coaches and our parents who make sure their daughters are well rested, well fed and get to practices and games on time! A very special mention is extended to Mrs. Jen O'Leary under whose supervision the program runs seamlessly as well as our teacher supervisors and our Athletic department who oversee all home games and tournaments.

In a few short weeks it will be Christmas – the anniversary of the coming (advent) of Jesus Christ in human history. On a deeper level for Christians, the Incarnation is God "pitching a tent among us" and sharing life and love. Advent is a time for considering what this means for our relationship with God and with others. As a *People of*

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Hospitality and in the true spirit of the season, our staff and students have been called to reflect on how we prepare the way for the Lord by creating space in our lives for God and others. Kindly be mindful of all those experiencing illness or loss – may our Lord Jesus infuse them with healing, patience and love. And may this Advent season bring you a renewed sense of God's presence; blessings to you and your family for a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas!

Principal's Message

Mrs. Josie Audino



It was wonderful to see so many people attend our Study Skills and Anxiety Presentation, International Day festivities, Remembrance Day Assembly, student-parent and teacher conferences and the wonderful drama

performance - *Annie*! Thank you so much for supporting our girls!

It is December! The liturgical period of Advent is the season of hope, faith, love and joy. We are celebrating the charism of hospitality this year and; since the beginning of the school year, we have not only made maintaining a high academic achievement a priority, but have also demonstrated our social conscience and generosity through our many meaningful activities and events.

Many students involved in sports teams have "Held High The Torch" in cross-country, track and field, golf, volleyball, badminton, bandy and hockey. Our debate teams continue to excel not only in Winnipeg, but also in other parts of the country.

Our students are preparing for mid-year assessments which are cumulative in nature, worth 15% of their final grade for students in Grades 9 – 12 and 10% for students in Grades 7 and 8. Kindly remember not to book family vacations during this time.

I wish you all the best during this ADVENT season. Merry Christmas and have a happy and healthy 2016.



December 2015

From the SMA Inc. Board of Directors

Mr. Scott Greenlay, SMA Inc. Board Chair

Seasons Greetings. On behalf of your Board of Directors, I want to take this opportunity to let you know that we have been busy this year laying the groundwork for St. Mary's Academy's new Strategic Plan. We have engaged consultants to seek input from the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), students, faculty, staff, parents, alumnae, and others to get your ideas, feedback and insight on what should be important to us as we consider the journey our School will need to take for the next five years. To date the SNJMs, students, faculty, staff and members of our Boards have already met with the consultants. In the near future, parents, alumnae and other constituents will be engaged in the process via an online survey, focus groups, and/or interviews. Your participation is critical to

our success and we look forward to hearing from you about what we do well and what we can do better.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your support during this exciting process and Merry Christmas.



Blessed Mother Marie Rose Durocher

Mother Marie Rose Durocher was a servant leader who dreamed of a world full of justice and peace, and she believed that world would be realized through the education of young women, mind, body, and spirit. From humble and challenging beginnings, amidst social, religious, and politically stifling contexts, she left a legacy of service. We see this commitment to service in many aspects of our school, and the Board of Directors also intends to live and model this social responsibility and commitment of service. As a group, we fed a family through the Christmas Cheer Board and will participate in a hamper delivery caravan evening. This holiday season and in the spirit in which MMR devoted her life, we encourage all of our community members to find ways to be involved in building that just and peaceful world.

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)

As we journey through Advent this year, it is wonderful to look back at the many blessings we have had. We began this liturgical year learning about Advent, a time of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. As **People of Hospitality**, our focus has been to be a community of welcoming. Since November, our girls have been involved in a number of wonderful opportunities:

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba

We joined a group of young girls at IRCOM for a night of fun and friendship as part of our monthly service

Angel Squad

We helped break a world record for "Largest gathering of Angels", which was an initiative of the Misericordia Health Centre Foundation.

Villa Rosa

We wrapped gifts at Villa Rosa, a community that supports young women in a time of need.

Harvest Thursday

We continue to serve groceries and assist clients at a satellite site of Winnipeg Harvest each Thursday morning.

J- Walking

Our J-Walking group has been visiting Welcome Home each month, sharing their time and compassion with those in the community.

Junior Club L.E.M.O.N

Junior Club L.E.M.O.N is busy making cards for the people at Résidence Despins, where our Choir will be performing later this month.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

We continue to pray together each Wednesday morning in the Chapel and share God's love with friends, family, and everyone we meet.

As we continue our journey as **People of Hospitality** this season, we hope to spread God's love and compassion during the Jubilee **Year of Mercy**.

Blessings and love to your family over this Holy Season. Merry Christmas!

Social Studies

Mr. Michael Saj

"Nice Women Don't Want The Vote"

A small contingency of SMA students were invited to the Manitoba Museum for the opening of their new exhibit about the suffragist movement in Canada entitled: "Nice Women Don't Want The Vote". The girls were given a personalized tour of the exhibit followed by the official opening of the

exhibit and reception. The Social Studies department would like to thank the Manitoba Museum for the invitation to the exhibit on a very important piece of Canadian History.

Government of Canada History Awards

Congratulations go out to Sanjam Panag for winning the Government of Canada History Award for Students. Sanjam won the \$1000 prize for her essay entitled "The Race to the Arctic". Sanjam is the sixth SMA student to win this award in the last two years.



December 2015

Mission Club

Ms. Teresa Uruski



Gift Bags from the Heart

Every Sunday at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall for the past number of years, volunteers including students have

been serving a hot meal to over 300 people who come from the Inner City.

Many St Mary's Academy students have become part of this honour of assisting those less fortunate by not only volunteering at the Drop-In, but by participating in the annual time of gift giving. This year, students and staff prepared gift bags which will be distributed by adult and student volunteers from the Mission Club on Sunday, December 13.

Gift Bags from the Heart has become a way for students and staff to embrace and spread the Christmas Spirit of sharing. It is truly a tangible way to be part of community by helping others in need through an offering of useful gifts. This is what Christmas is really about – giving a gift from the HEART.

Mission Club Monthly Organization Focus

During the months of October and November, students at SMA participated in Colour Days which helped raise funds for Rossbrook House and Villa Rosa. Grades 8 and 12 students also organized major fundraising activities for programs offered from these organizations.

In January, our Colour Day will raise money which will be donated to Holy Names House of Peace. The House of Peace is run by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and is located in the heart



that assists women in transition along with providing a space for various organizations that build peoples' strengths.

In February, the Mission Reps will have an opportunity to plan activities that will assist us in focusing our efforts to raise funds to support our sister SNJM schools and Orphanages in Lesotho, Africa.

If you would like to make a donation to any of these organizations, please contact Ms. Uruski at turuski@smamb.ca.

Volleyball

Mrs. Jennifer O'Leary (Heywood '85)

Eight teams, 80 athletes, three teachers and 15 volunteers are neatly folding and putting away volleyball uniforms, storing knee pads, and hanging up their volleyball court shoes. As of December 5, the SMA Volleyball season came to a close. All teams experienced a wide variety of success and positive experiences on and off the court, whether it was establishing new relationships or building old ones, learning about volleyball extensively, and developing active healthy lifestyle practices.

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

SMA Volleyball Academy

43 Grades 7-12 students participated in Mike Burchuk's (former Canadian Women's National Team coach) SMA Volleyball Academy.

Grade 7

60 Grade 7 athletes participated in four developmental, friendly tournaments within the Pembina Trails School Division.

Grade 7 Traveling Team

The Grade 7 Traveling Team participated in the Grade 8 Diggers League and finished in 1st place the Pembina Trails Athletic Association Championship.

Grade 8

The Grade 8 Team won the Grade 8 Spikers League in the Pembina Trails Athletic Association.

Grade 9

The Grade 9 Team finished in 3rd in the Pembina Trails Athletic Association Championship and went on to compete in the Volleyball Manitoba Provincial Championships where they finished in the top 10.

Junior Varsity

The Junior Varsity Team won the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship, playing an amazing match over undefeated Westwood Collegiate, and participated in the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial Championships where they finished in the top 4 in the province.

Varsity

The Varsity Team won the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Championships and then went on to win the **Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial Championships!** The Flames beat the Selkirk Royals in three straight sets to claim the Provincial Championship. Flames' Josie Abbott, Darby Coughlin, and Julia Tays were named tournament All-Stars and Kearley Abbott was named tournament MVP. Darby Coughlin, Shea Pyle, Josie Abbott, Kearley Abbott and Brianna Patrick were also named to the MVA Graduating All-Star team. A huge congratulations to the team and the coaches Christine Rewniak and Tom Falconer.

Thank You

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 2015 Volleyball Program and the Athletic Department thanks everyone who supported the athletes and coaches in their quest for success. Thank you for your continued support.

December 2015

From the Career Counsellor

Ms. Teresa Uruski

Take Our Kids to Work Day

Thank you to all parents, hosts, and students who contributed to the success of **Take Our Kids to Work Day** on November 4th. Over one hundred Grade 9 students participated in the day, which provided them with an opportunity to gain exposure to the skills required in today's workplaces, and to begin career discussions with adults about the work they do. Each student will prepare and present a 'Me Box' as a final project during our last classes in January.

PSAT – offered again at SMA

On Wednesday, October 14, 2015, Grade 11 students who registered in Grade 10 had an opportunity to write the PSAT. The PSAT is a standardized test administered by the College Board in the United States and for a second year SMA has been granted the ability to offer this test to our students. The benefits of taking the PSAT is to get in some practice before a student writes the SAT in May/June of her Grade 11 year or October/November of her Grade 12 year, as Universities in the USA require an assessment score as a part of their application process. Students currently in Grade 10 will have an opportunity in late May, 2016 to register for the PSAT with Ms. Uruski if they have plans to apply or attend a University in the USA.

Grade 12 Post-Secondary Planning

Grade 12 students are reminded to check the SMA Career Information website for regular updates on admission/scholarships/presentations.

Note the following deadlines:

January 15: (Grade 12 ONLY) U of M Faculty of Music admission application deadline and recommended date to apply to all universities in Ontario via the 'Ontario Universities Application Centre'.

March 1: (Grade 12 ONLY) U of M Early Admission Deadline for automatic Entrance Scholarship consideration based on February Gr. 12 marks

March 1: (Grade 12 ONLY) U of W Early Admission Deadline for automatic Special Entrance Scholarship consideration based on final June Gr. 12 marks

Applying out of Province

Students who are applying out of province are reminded to email Ms. Uruski ASAP with the information of where their official school transcript needs to be sent along with their assigned student number for that post secondary institution.

Grade 11 Students: Planning For Your Future

As a follow up to the Scholarships and Financial Information Evening that took place on November 17 at SMA, Gr. 11 students will be attending an information session at the end of January presented by Ms. Uruski, which will provide an overview of Post Secondary options. Later in February, representatives from the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg will be at SMA to meet with Grade 11 students to present program, admission, and scholarship details.

Grade 11 Students: Campus Tours

Grade 11 students will be attending the University of Manitoba Info Days on February 18. **Attendance is mandatory**, as this event offers students the opportunity to not only get a tour of the U of M Campus, but also to find out more about the programs offered at many universities across the country. The students will also receive information about the advantages of becoming an affiliate of St. Paul's College at the U of M. Watch for parent/guardian permission forms and more information to come home in late January.

Students will have the option to attend an Open House at the University of Winnipeg on February 17 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. and at Red River College on February 16 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Grade 10 Career Development Classes

All Grade 10 students will start their Career Development Classes in February. They will also have an opportunity with their parents to meet with representatives from the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg, and Red River College as part of SMA's annual Post Secondary Information Evening at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24 in Alumnae Hall. Details and an invitation will be sent home with students during their first Career Class.



Debate

Mr. Jordan Burg

Oxford Cup Nationals

SMA's top debating team participated in the Oxford Cup Nationals, which was hosted at the Western Canada High School in Calgary, AB from Nov. 13-15, 2015. SMA students Maia Idzikowski and Linnéa Cox qualified for one of the six spots on the Manitoba Provincial Team. The tournament featured six challenging rounds of British Parliamentary debate. Maia and Linnéa were very successful, and based on their

total points and overall averages, placed 7th overall as a team. Linnéa ranked 28th overall in the Individual category, with Maia not far behind in 30th place.

Senior High Douglas Campbell Public Speaking Championships

SMA student Isha Khandelwal won Gold in the Persuasion category, and in the Impromptu category, Adara LePage finished 7th overall and Linnéa Cox finished 9th overall.

Junior Douglas Campbell Public Speaking Championships

On December 1, SMA hosted the Junior Douglas Campbell Public Speaking

Championships. SMA student Emma Callbeck took Gold for Top Overall Speaker and also took Gold in the Interpretive Reading and Impromptu events. Ibukun Okunnu took Silver in Impromptu.

Emma's win (which is her 2nd consecutive) earned her a spot on the Provincial Team where she and Manitoba teammates will compete at the National Junior High Public Speaking Championships in Vancouver, BC (date has not been announced yet).

Way to Hold High The Torch girls!

December 2015

Parents' Guild

Mrs. Kristi Cumming (Stuart '89)

International Day 2015

International Day was attended by 1,200 people, 10 pavilions served delicious ethnic food, people were entertained by 2 roaming musicians and 8 cultural groups performed, wonderful student art was sold and \$30,000 was raised! Two hundred volunteers made International Day possible! This event was a formidable demonstration of SMA's *Year of Hospitality*.

Proceeds from International Day and the Cash Raffle will fund the new charging station in the cafeteria, the new score clock in the gym, the SMART podium & interactive pen and the SMA 2016 *Torch Talks* (see below for more info). Congratulations to the Grade 7 students who sold the most raffle tickets. In total, the raffle raised over \$20,000.

Thank you!

Torch Talks NEW

Saturday, January 23

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sheila Chipman Atrium

Breakfast and three, 30 minute sessions for parents. Topics include:

- a) The Teenage Brain
- b) Relationships Matter
- c) Teenage Mental Health

Based on the popular *Ted Talks* format, it is sure to be a information-packed morning. Watch your email for further details.

Indoor Track & Field

Mr. Demetro Danyluk

Indoor Track and Field has begun with meets starting in January. It is an activity that accepts everybody and is for everyone. Come on out and use it to develop fitness, to prepare for another sport, or compete and have fun doing it. If there are students who are still interested, please see Mr. Danyluk.

International Day



from the Accounting Office



Charitable donation receipts for the 2014-2015 school year, for inclusion with your 2015 tax return, are being prepared and will be mailed in February. Receipts for the 2015-2016 school year, for inclusion with your 2016 tax return, will be issued in February 2017.

Tuition

For those families who chose Plan B, please remember that your final payment will be withdrawn from your account January 4, 2016.

Accounting Office Holiday Hours

The accounting office will be closed December 24, 2015 to January 3, 2016.

Dates To Note

December 2015

- 16 Prayer in Holy Names Chapel at 8 a.m.
- 16 Choirs at Résidence Despins
- 16 Christmas Café - 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Advent to Christmas Service in Alumnae Hall at 11:35 a.m. Dismissal at 12:35 p.m.

January 2016

- 4 Classess Resume
- 5 2:30 p.m. Dismissal (Faculty Meeting)
- 7-13 Individual Grad Photos
- 11-14 Gr. 12 Provincial English Exam
- 14-19 Mid-Year Assessments
- 18 Mid-Year Assessments Flex Day
- 22 Colour Day (Holy Names House of Peace)
- 21-23 SMA JV Basketball Tournament
- 29 No School (Administration Day)
- 28-30 SMA Varsity Basketball Tournament
- 30 An Evening at the Academy

December 2015

From the Advancement Office

Ms. Georgine Van de Mosselaer '83

Christmas Greetings from the Advancement Office!

We have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of our SMA families, friends, and alumnae. Our second *Burning Bright Speaker Series* event, titled "Beyond The Truth and Reconciliation Commission: What can we do to advance Reconciliation" was a success, with 5 panelists sharing their experiences of the Residential School system and reconciliation. If you have not yet viewed the video from the event, I encourage you to visit it at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/events/burning_bright_speaker_series.


It is indeed the season to open our hearts and your generosity was evident at our Drama performance of *Annie*, where you contributed over \$2,300 to the St. Mary's Academy Bursary Fund. As you know, in the 2015-2016 school year, seventy-four students are attending SMA with bursary assistance and the need is growing. We thank you for acknowledging the vision of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary: to educate all young women, regardless of economic circumstances.

"By educating young women, you can change the world!" -Mother Marie Rose Durocher

An Evening at the Academy

We are in the final month of ticket sales for our inaugural *An Evening at the Academy*, in support of the SMA Bursary Fund. This event is currently 75% sold out. Please consider purchasing tickets with parents from your daughter's class or grad year, or make it a family event or a Christmas gift. Purchase your tickets at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/events/an_evening_at_the_academy/

Thank you for your continued support and wishing all of our families a blessed Christmas.



An Evening at the Academy
Saturday, January 30, 2016
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. | Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent
Black Tie Optional
Tickets: \$175 each
Purchase tickets at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca
or call Georgine Van de Mosselaer at 204-478-6030



Ms. Joy Beauchamp '80

A big congratulations and heartfelt thank-you to all of those involved in our SMA school production of *Annie* this year. Many hands make light work: community volunteers, alumnae, teachers, staff members, the members of our crews, and our hard working cast all helped in countless ways to create this marvelous show. A special thank you to all of those students who came out to help after our program was printed, and volunteered and worked in so many areas, from lighting to make up, and who contributed so much so selflessly. Lastly, a big, big, thank you to all of you in our community who came out to see the show! Even with the Grey Cup Festival, the Santa Claus Parade, and many other concerts and events happening during our scheduled show times, our wonderful and supportive community came through, and our students were able to share their work and creativity with over 2,000 people. Well done, all!



Mrs. Lidia Erickson

Hours of Operation

Open 5 days a week from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

There's still enough time to get those last minute Christmas gifts! New in our store are Roots Black Pepper sweatpants. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Library

With the Christmas holidays fast approaching, we are excited to let students and staff know that library borrowing will continue over the break. Feel free to check out a book or three.

Our 'I Love to Read' month celebrations will be starting on February 1st. We will be running a book drive all month long in support of Gonzaga Middle School and having special events throughout the first two weeks. If you are interested in helping us plan an event, please see Ms. Chongva or Ms. Jennings in the Library.

Around the Academy



Annie



SMA Angels



SMA Athletic's Council running water stations at WFPS marathon



Junior Varsity Cross Country: Manitoba High School Athletic Association Champions



Junior Varsity Volleyball Team: West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Champions



SMA and SPHS Varsity Volleyball Teams: Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial Champions