

Newsletter

NEWS

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends

February 2017

President's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



Last time our newsletter hit your inbox, I wished you a Merry Christmas—we are now in full 2017 mode! Happy New Year! It has been an extremely active January and February already and lots to

look forward to in the months ahead! This month's newsletter describes the “happenings” around the Academy and throughout our school community; here are a few highlights from my vantage point.

If you have not yet had a chance to read our 5-year Strategic Plan, **Leading, Learning and Legacy**, I strongly recommend setting aside an hour to get informed about our roadmap for the next five years—a roadmap which has our students and the sustainability of our operation at the core

of all decisions. You will find the link on our website's home page, stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

We are very encouraged by the number of young women and parents who came to our Open House on January 31. Moreover, we have had very strong numbers for students applying for our Grades 7 to 11 program. The admission process is also in full swing, with two test dates and new student interviews taking place over the next month. As well, re-registration of current students will be sent via email immediately following the SMA School Board meeting on March 13, where tuition for the upcoming school year will be set. **Deadline for re-registration is Tuesday March 21.** Please make sure your package is returned to the President's Office! **Bursary applications are due May 1, 2017;** SMA strives to remain accessible to all qualified families who wish to have their daughters experience an SMA education. We have a healthy Bursary Fund overseen by a committed Foundation Board who is charged with ensuring our Fund

continues to grow over the next five years and beyond. In the current school year, 78 students were awarded bursaries totaling \$325,900 — representing 13.7% of our student population.

Finally, I am both proud and delighted to inform you that the **Class of 1965 and Commercial Class of 1965 have been selected as this year's Marian Awards of Excellence recipients.** The Class of 1965 epitomizes what it means to Hold High the Torch for their generous and continued service and engagement demonstrated to the St. Mary's Academy community. The **Marian Awards of Excellence Brunch and Award Presentation will be held on Saturday May 13, 2017 at The Gates on Roblin.** Tickets will be available online on Tuesday, February 21 at <https://smaf.invit-eright.com/marianawards2017>.

I am forever grateful to our students, faculty, staff, parents, Boards and SNJM whose support and trust inspire me every day to lead this amazing school!

Senior School Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Klus



It is hard to believe that there are less than five months remaining in this school year. We wish the students all the best as they continue to learn and grow. Plans are already well underway for next year including the school calendar, re-registration of current students, course electives selection as well as the admission process of new students into our community.

Option (electives) and Program Information for students currently in Grades 8 to 11 will take place on Tuesday, February 21 during the school day. There is also a **Course Option (electives) Information Meeting for parents that will take place on Monday, February 27 at 6:30 in Alumnae Hall.** Parents are encouraged to review the Electives Sheet with their daughter(s) before signing and returning it to the school office. The forms will be accepted in the school office between February 28 and March 3. As some electives have only one section and space is limited in the senior grades, it is very important that the sheet be returned as soon as possible to ensure a spot in that course. A reminder that **Report Card distribution will happen on March 3 and Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on March 9 and 10.**

Keeping our students focused on their school work and commitment to school clubs and teams is essential over the next few months. Parental support plays a crucial role in the successful completion of the school year. We appreciate being able to work collaboratively towards success for our students.

Junior School Principal's Message

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



School life in Junior School is in full swing!

Our Mid-Year assessments are completed, and we are now gearing up for our second half of the year. Teachers will be busy preparing the next formal report card. We look forward to seeing parents and students at the next round of conferences in March to discuss your daughter's progress in achieving the grade level outcomes. As well, teachers will be completing reports for the provincial Department of Education and Training that further specify your daughter's progress in ELA and Math. These provincial reports will accompany your daughter's SMA report.

Our junior students continue to bring joy and energy to our building. They were, by far, our greatest group of volunteers for our Open House. How heart warming to see them want to share their enthusiasm for their school community with others. How blessed we are to be able to be a part of your daughter's junior years at SMA. The girls bring a smile to our face, and an eagerness to participate that is energizing to witness.

Junior School students with Ms. Sichewski '86 at our Open House



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February 2017



Presenting Sponsor

5th Annual Female World Sport School Challenge

St. Mary's Academy is pleased to host the 5th annual *Female World Sport School Challenge* (FWSSC) taking place at the MTS Iceplex from **March 16-19, 2016**.

The FWSSC is in its 5th consecutive year and this is the third year that SMA has sole ownership of this Hockey Canada initiated event.

This year's tournament brings together eight North American female hockey teams. Sport school teams participating include host St. Mary's Academy Flames Prep, defending champions Shattuck-St. Mary's U-19 from Faribault, MN, Pursuit of Excellence from Kelowna, BC, Banff Hockey Academy from Banff, AB, Notre Dame from Wilcox, SK, Northern Alberta Xtreme from Edmonton, AB and the Minnesota Revolution from St. Paul, MN. The Thunder Bay Queens are a AAA regional team.

Friday, March 17 is RBC Game Night
Come out and cheer on our Flames as they take on Shattuck-St. Mary's at 7:00 p.m.

Individual game tickets are \$5 each (children 12 and under are free). Tournament Passes are \$25 each. Available at the door.

In addition to showcasing elite female hockey action, the tournament weekend also features a Banquet on Saturday night with keynote speaker Jennifer Botterill, Canadian Women's Ice Hockey three time Olympic gold medalist and Order of Manitoba recipient. Master of Ceremonies for the evening is Chrissy Troy, Host at 103.1 Virgin Radio. Additionally, First Team Awards are presented during the evening.

Volunteer for the Tournament

SMA is looking for adult volunteers to fill various positions during the tournament weekend.

Volunteer duties may include:

- Sales (game tickets, programs, 50-50 etc.)
- Hospitality (team nutrition etc.)
- Event Operations (game videotaping etc.)
- Game Operations (penalty box attendants)
- Banquet (set-up and take-down, ticketing etc.)

For further information and to register as a volunteer, go to www.fwssc.ca/information-for-volunteers/ OR contact Shauna Angers at shaunaangers@hotmail.com.

Banquet Details

Saturday, March 18, 2017

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue

Tickets: \$75 each

Purchase tickets from www.fwssc.ca/banquet or

contact: Kathy Karbonik at

kathy.karbonik@majordrilling.com or

Sheila Charyrbok at chatyrbok4@hotmail.com.

Jennifer Botterill



www.fwssc.ca



twitter.com/FWSSChallenge



[instagram.com/FWSSChallenge](https://www.instagram.com/FWSSChallenge)

Supporting Adolescents in Today's World

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

This is a space to provide information to families that you may find helpful as you journey through the adolescent years with your daughter(s).

Article

From Judy Willis, neurologist and educator:

What You Should Know About Your BRAIN www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/journals/ed_lead/el200912_willis.pdf

TED Talk

We're raising our girls to be perfect, and we're raising our boys to be brave, says Reshma Saujani, the founder of *Girls Who Code*. Saujani has taken up the charge to socialize young girls to take risks and learn to program — two skills they need to move society forward. www.ted.com/talks/reshma_saujani_teach_girls_bravery_not_perfection?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=tedspreacontent=button__2016-08-30

Book

Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions into Adulthood by Lisa Damour, Ph.D.

Videos and discussion questions to support this book are found at www.drlisadamour.com/untangled/

*Note: this book was recently highlighted in the Winnipeg Free Press 'Up Close' section: www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/in-conversation-with-lisa-damour-413478843.html

February 2017

Charism and Mission Office

Sr. Michelle Garlinski '88, SNJM

February is known to be "heart" month. With Valentine's Day and the Heart & Stroke Foundation canvassing, it seems like a great month to launch the theme of our **Retrally** "Women at the Heart of Change". This theme will carry us through to our Ash Wednesday service and throughout the weeks of Lent.

Public Way of the Cross April 14, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. St. Mary's Academy

The SMA Community is co-sponsoring the **Public Way of the Cross** with the Archdio-

cese of Winnipeg Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office. Our focus, *Living Peace Through Justice, Together* guides our footsteps as we process through the neighborhood on Good Friday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Academy. This is a prayerful way for us to gather as a community of believers to pray, sing and remember the injustice of the cross and the continued injustices that surround us today. Yet, as the cross was transformed into a sign of hope and love, so too can the challenges in our time. This is truly a community event as students, staff, parents, alumnae and the

SNJM community are involved in the planning and preparations.

Volunteers Requested

If you would like to help by carrying the cross, reading, hospitality or crowd control, **please email me at mgarlinski@smamb.ca by March 25th.** As we prepare for the Lenten season, a time to pause and take stock of our relationship with self, others and God; may our hearts be open to change. Blessings on our Lenten Journey!

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)

January went by quickly as we hit the ground running with our Campus Ministry reps Breakfast Club preparing for the Open House at the end of January and the J-Walkers were able to visit and serve at the Welcome Home twice in January and then again first week of February. The students are enjoying building community with the families that are there each week.

This month, AMS@SMA (A Monthly Service) went skating at the Freight House with the kids club from IRCOM and we are looking forward to going to Ronald McDonald House to help with baking and crafts on March 16.

We were pleased to host the annual **Retrally** which took place during Catholic Schools Week on February 15th and 16th, and it was our pleasure to have Development and Peace as our partners. The theme was *Women at the Heart of Change* and we focussed on justice and action and explored amazing women in our personal lives and in the world.

Coming up is our annual **Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Pancake Lunch** on February 28th. Campus Ministry reps will be selling tickets (\$5.00 each) in their classes and in front of the Cafeteria from February 21 to 24. This is a wonderful way to celebrate community as we prepare to enter into Lent with the school wide Ash Wednesday Service on March 1.

Library

Ms. Sheryl Chongva & Ms. Kelsey Jennings

I Love to Read Month

We dove into different worlds with this year's *I Love to Read* activities. Many discussions were held around the "Ultimate Villain Survivor" board on the pros and cons of each villain's characteristics based on the 10 daily challenges. A school-wide scavenger hunt was held to locate the Most Wanted Villains. Our annual book drive was a success for the third year in a row with books being donated to inner city reading programs. Thank you to the student teams who coordinated the book drive, the scavenger hunt and the daily challenges. Thanks also to the Faculty and Staff for their support.

Drama Department

Ms. Laura Davey '05

We are busy creating theatre over here in the Drama Department. We are currently working on three Senior High Performance Exams! Three different shows are being designed, rehearsed and costumed simultaneously across four grades! These are exams for our Drama students, worth 30% of their final grades in the course. Our Grade 9 students are working on selected excerpts from *The Diary of Anne Frank* (performance on March 15). Our Grade 10 students will be working on scenes from

Agatha Christie's well-loved mystery *The Mousetrap* (performance on April 27). Our Senior Class (Grade 11 & 12 students) will perform Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, JR (performances on May 25 in the afternoon and evening). As always, parents of the students performing are welcome to attend to celebrate all of the hard work these girls are putting into their shows! Your daughter will have further information, or you can contact Ms. Laura Davey at ldavey@smamb.ca if you have questions. Break a leg, ladies!

Parent Teacher Conferences

We are pleased to announce that the process for booking appointments for the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences in March will be done entirely online. As the time for reports cards and conferences approaches, all families will be given more specific information and detailed login instructions to access the Conference Manager program and book your preferred time slots. Stay tuned for more details.

February 2017

From the Career Counsellor

Ms. Teresa Uruski

Gr. 11 & 12 Post-Secondary Planning

NEW: Evening Parents Program at the U of M Open House on Feb 23, 6-8 p.m. Register online at <http://umanitoba.ca/student/es/evening-parents-program.html>

Gr. 12 Post-Secondary Planning

March 1, 2017 is the application deadline for scholarship consideration at the U of M and U of W.

All students who have not sent a request to Ms. Uruski to mail their official school transcript to out of province post secondary institutions are reminded to do so ASAP. Details with the information of where it needs to be sent along with their assigned student number for that post secondary institution should be included in the email. Email turuski@smamb.ca

Gr. 11 Post-Secondary Information Sessions

Grade 11 students will attend the **U of M Open House on Feb 23**. This event offers students the opportunity to tour the Campus and to find out about program offerings. Students will also be informed of the advantages of becoming an affiliate of St. Paul's College at the U of M. Representatives from both the U of M and U of W met with students on February 6 and 15 to review program and faculty options including the review of high school course requirements.

The **U of W Open House** takes place on **February 22**, **Red River College** hosts its **Open House on February 21 & 22** and the **U of M Open House** is **Feb 23**.

Gr. 10 Career Development Classes

All Grade 10 students started 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 Post Secondary Information Evening at 7:30 p.m. on February 27**.

Students will attend the **Rotary Career Symposium on March 15** where they will spend the day learning about a variety of career and additional post-secondary educational opportunities. This activity is mandatory for all Gr. 10 students. Further information, along with a permission form, will be provided to students at the end of February.

Gr. 12 Advance Placement Students

All students currently enrolled in our AP classes at SMA will receive an information package regarding the option to sign up for the Advance Placement Exams which are offered by the US College Board during the month of May. Students are asked to review this option with their teacher and parents and **return their Intent Form by March 3**.

Mission Club

Ms. Teresa Uruski

During the month we are raising funds to support our SNJM Sister Schools in Lesotho, Africa. A Colour Day was hosted on Feb 10 and raised \$1000. Additionally, a number of homerooms have planned extra fundraising events. **Our goal of \$2000** will assist in providing support for educating the children who live in the orphanage, and to students living in poverty who are unable to attend school without bursary assistance. The SNJMs provide direct care for children in the orphanage along with helping countless families in need with food, medication and finances. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Ms. Uruski at 204-477-0244 or turuski@smamb.ca.

Yes you CAN

Food Drive for Winnipeg Harvest

From February 27 to

March 3 the Mission

Club will be collecting

food items for Winnipeg

Harvest. Students and

staff are encouraged to bring in

nonperishable items throughout the week.

Our goal is 1000 food items.



Basketball

Ms. Adriane McElrea

Our basketball season is off to a great start with four Flames' teams — Varsity, Junior Varsity and two combined grades 7 and 8 teams.

The **Varsity team** is led by coach Audrey Dragojevic and assistant coaches Danielle MacKenzie '16, Laura Sachvie '16 and Caitlin Madden '16.

The **JV team** is led by head coach and SMA teacher, Deb May, and assistant coach Kaela Cranston '11. The JV team came in second place at the annual SMA Invitational Tournament.

Our two **grades 7 and 8** combined teams are called the Red Flames and the Blue Fire. The **Red Flames** team competes in the Nash division of the Pembina Trails Athlet-

ics Association, the second highest tier in the league. This team is coached by two former SMA basketball players, Sydney Loewen '14 and Dayna Roeland '13. The **Blue Fire** head coach is Sheila Howe. This team competes in the Triano division of the Pembina Trails Athletics Association, the highest and most competitive tier in the league.

To see rosters and results of games for Varsity and JV teams, go to our website smarysacademy.mb.ca/home/academy_life/athletics/basketball/#. And, please check out our Athletics Instagram account, [@smaathletics](https://www.instagram.com/smaathletics), for updates on all of these teams.



Our program is blessed to have a great squad of talented athletes and a committed group of coaches, including six of our own SMA alumnae!

Track & Field

Mr. Demetro Danyluk

The Flames' Track and Field team has many hardworking grades 7 to 12 students training in the morning, lunch and/or during spares. These athletes are competing in multiple events at various indoor meets held at the University of Manitoba and they are performing very well. Their training and competing is preparing them well for the outdoor season.

It is never too late to join the team, however, sooner is better than later. The outdoor season will begin right after Indoor Track & Field ends, and that will happen before Spring Break until the middle of June.

If you would like more information, contact Mr. Danyluk, ddanyluk@smamb.ca.

February 2017

Alumnae Affairs Advancement

Mrs. Kerri Moore (McIvor '94)

The Alumnae Relations office is busy preparing for some great upcoming events! The Alumnae Association is hosting **Paint Nite on Friday, March 3** in the cafeteria. Tickets are available at www.paintnite.com/events/1141203.html.

The annual **Marian Awards for Excellence Celebration takes place on May 13th at The Gates on Roblin.**

Planning is underway for **Homecoming 2017, which will be held on Saturday, September 30.** This year we welcome the Classes of 2007, 1997, 1992, 1987, 1977, 1967, 1957, 1947 and 1937 for their commemorative years' celebrations. All of our SMA community is welcome to attend Homecoming!

Ms. Georgine Van de Mosselaer '83

Wasn't That a Party! Thank you to the many parents, students, staff, alumnae, guests and sponsors, especially the SMA Parents' Guild, for their support at our 2nd annual **An Evening at the Academy – Igniting Hope**, which was held on Saturday, January 28. The sold-out fundraising event is held at our school, yearly, to support the Mother Marie Rose Bursary Fund. With a goal of \$75,000 this year, we are happy to announce that over \$87,000 was raised for the Bursary Fund!

In the 2016-17 school year, 78 students received bursary funding for tuition assistance, totaling over \$325,000. This assistance is in line with one of SMA's guiding principles — "Integral to the SMA ethos is the commitment to building a school community which respects the dignity of the human person that reflects

the diversity in our church, and one that welcomes students from varied socio-economic, religious and ethnic backgrounds."

Save the date on January 27, 2018 for the **3rd annual An Evening at the Academy.** If you wish to be on a "first in line" list for this event, please contact Georgine Van de Mosselaer at 204-478-6030 or gvandemosselaer@smamb.ca. Don't delay, as tickets sold out in two weeks for our 2017 event. See you there!

Accounting Office

Ms. Brenda Van Raes

The Income Tax Act allows SMA, based on its fiscal year of operation, to issue a charitable donation receipt for a portion of tuition fees. Our fiscal year end is June 30. We must complete the entire school year before we can determine the charitable portion of tuition.

Charitable donation receipts for the 2015-2016 school year, for inclusion with your 2016 tax return, will be mailed on February 17.

If this is your daughter's first year at SMA, you will not receive a donation receipt for the 2016-2017 school year until February 2018.

Note, the donation receipt must be written to the person who made the payment (i.e. the name on the cheque).

If you have questions, feel free to call me at 204-478-6042 or email bvanraes@smamb.ca.

From the Parents' Guild

Mrs. Candace Partyka

The SMA Guild hit the ground running in 2017! On January 21 we hosted **Torch Talks** with three outstanding speakers, Mitch Bourbonniere, Sr. Michelle Garlinski '88 and Elder Mary Wilson. Their messages were meaningful and resonated with the audience. Thanks to Kristi Cumming (Stuart '89) and Charmaine Cancilla (Anderson '92) for co-chairing this warm and rejuvenating event.

We were happy to be involved with **An Evening at the Academy** by donating Nun Fudge that was made by parent volunteers. The fudge was a take-away gift for each guest at the event.

The Guild also participated in SMA's Open House. Thanks to the Hospitality Committee for their contribution in hosting this event. It was fun to meet prospective students and parents, their excitement and energy was infectious!

Looking ahead, the Guild will be seeking volunteers to fill several vacancies on its Executive, and to chair committees. Please consider making time for further involvement in your daughter's school community. Watch for more information. Hope to see you at the **next Guild meeting Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.**

SMA Corner Store

Donation Requested

The Store is in need of an Apple (running iOS 8.0 or later) or Android (running 4.0 or later) WiFi device to launch a new credit card payment system. If you have an older iPad mini or similar device, that you no longer use, please consider donating it to the Corner Store. If you require further information or to arrange drop-off of device, please contact Tammy at tammyzach@mymts.net, or Lidia at lidbrad@shaw.ca. Thank you!

Human Rights Dinner

Save the Date
Thursday, May 11

an initiative of SMA's
Human Rights Team

Dates To Note

February 2017

- 17 No Classes: Catholic Schools Day
- 20 No Classes: Louis Riel Day
- 22 Grad Group Photos and Individual Retakes
- 27 Course Options Info. for Parents, 6:30 p.m.
- 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch
- 28 Pascal, Cayley, Fermat Math Contests
- 27-28 Wpg Harvest Food Drive

March 2017

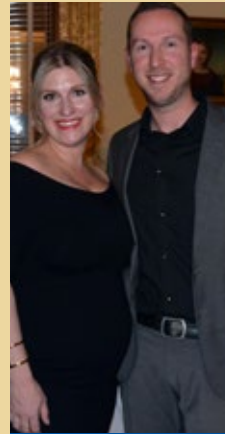
- 1-3 Wpg Harvest Food Drive
- 1 Ash Wednesday Service 11:35 a.m.
- 3 Report Card Distribution, Period 4
- 7 Parents' Guild Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Parent-Teacher Conf. 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Parent-Teacher Conf. 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 10 No Classes
- 14 2:30 p.m. Dismissal (Staff Mtg Schedule)
- 17 Colour Day supporting disadvantaged people of Wpg/Esther House
- 16-19 Female World Sport School Challenge
- 21 Student Re-Registration Deadline
- 23-24 Spirit Days
- 27-31 Spring Break
- Apr 3 Classes Resume

Around the Academy

An Evening at the Academy



Student Volunteers with Blue Bomber, Maurice Leggett



Sylvia and Graeme Falconer



Parents' Guild: Christa Giesbrecht, Kelly Moon, Candace Partyka (Guild President), Debbie Styles



Standing: Kelsey Stevens, Marcia MacKenzie, Kerri Moore, Pina Aiello, Kathleen Reid, Christina Albi, Kelly Moon, Alexandra Logan Seated: Candace Partyka (SMA Parents' Guild President), Georgine Van de Mosselaer, Connie Yunyk (SMA President), Gina Borkofski, Clare MacKay (Master of Ceremonies)



Larry Bird, Chair of the SMA Foundation Board



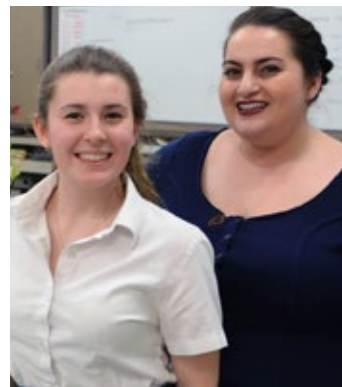
Connie Yunyk, Carol-Ann Swayzie, Michelle Klus



Retrally at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue with guest facilitators from Development and Peace (On the left) Rachelle Rocque, Christina Kruszewski, Megan Marques. (On the right) Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Campus Ministry) and Sr. Michelle Garlinski (Charism and Mission Office)



Flames Blue Fire, Consolation Champs in the George Waters Middle School Invitational



Open House

Go to www.smaphotos.ca to view pictures of various SMA events