President’s Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo ’77) — cyunyk@smamb.ca

November is already upon us and during this month of remembering, we are called to pause to show gratitude for the sacrifice of women and men who died in military service or served in wartime. How blessed are we to live in a country globally recognized as peacemakers!

On All Saints’ Day (November 1), Father Mike Koryluk sang the Beatitudes at our 8:00 AM Liturgy in Holy Names Chapel. The Beatitudes found in the Gospel of Matthew, is a message from Jesus intending to transform our inner self through charity, humility and love. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

In this significant year in our SMA history and on behalf of staff, students and our Boards, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our SMA community and friends for supporting our events through presence and in prayer. We are overwhelmed by your generosity and commitment to our school and legacy. Our final 150th celebration will take place on Sunday December 8 at 2:00 PM at St. Mary’s Academy—Mass presided by Archbishop Albert LeGall will take place in Alumnae Hall followed by High Tea in the Cafeteria. Please join us as we wrap up our year of celebrations.

We have had a few individuals join us over the past few months, as employees and board members. The Board of Directors welcomes parent Romulo Magistro and the Foundation Board welcomes parent Sina Aielo and alumna Delaney Vun ’03.

Welcome to the following faculty who joined us in September; Ms. Caitlin Cranmer, Ms. Chantelle Deslauriers ’87, Ms. Emma Domke, Mrs. Katie Friess, Mrs. Kelly Hill, Mrs. Tejal Friesen (Kristjanson ’11), Mr. Alex Mandrick and Mr. Robert McCaffrey. Welcome also to new staff members Natividad Dinulos, Human Resources Generalist and Taylor Martin ’14, Campus Ministry Coordinator.

Joining us in November is Alan Bedard who will replace Richelle Friesen (St. Croix ’03) as Controller from December 2019 until January 2021. Richelle will be away on maternity leave during that time. Staff member Vincent Ocampo will move into the Communications Coordinator/Jr. Graphic designer role on December 9 as Kelsey Jennings moves from the Communications Department to a full-time Library Technician role.

Finally, and continuing in the spirit of gratitude, we are so appreciative of the Parents’ Guild for a successful 45th annual International Day—special thanks to co-convenors Shannon Cisneros and Megan O’Laughlin. We are also incredibly grateful for the beautiful outdoor fused glass mural that the Guild donated. The mural is a tribute to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary’s 150-year legacy of learning, faith, service and leadership and is located at the entrance of Alumnae Hall. We are continually reminded of the importance of parents/guardians as our partners in the education of your daughters. God bless you all!

Senior School Principal’s Message

Mrs. Michelle Klus — mklus@smamb.ca

Here we are in November of 2019 and as I reflect on the Academy’s humble beginnings 150 years ago—I’m truly grateful for the faith and vision of the Sisters. Much has changed in 150 years however, the Sisters vision of education in the faith remains unchanged. We are blessed to be a part of this community!

The first two months of our school year are completed and both students and teachers have settled nicely into a routine. Much has been accomplished in both curricular and extra-curricular areas. We are blessed to have such talented and dedicated students and advisors in our midst.

Each year in October, Administration and faculty meet to discuss students who may be experiencing challenges academically, socially and/or behaviorally. If it is determined that an action plan is required for a student, our Student Support Team (consisting of Administration, Resource, Campus Ministry, Guidance and Academic Advisor) create an action plan to assist. This may include conversations with parents, students, Child Guidance Clinic professionals, or a referral to Mrs. Bohonos and/or Mrs. Sigurdson to help work through a defined challenge.

Progress Reports will go home with your daughter on November 15. Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences are scheduled for November 21 and 22. Information to schedule your conference online will be included in the Progress Report. The online Conference Manager opens at 8:00 AM on November 16. These conferences provide an opportunity for you and your daughter to meet with teachers and I encourage you to attend. Your daughter’s education truly is a partnership between home and school.

A reminder to visit the homepage, events pages, school bulletin and calendar page on SMA’s website on a regular basis, as well as to please read the weekly Communiqué sent via email at the end of each week. These communications contain important information. Let’s continue Holding High The Torch!

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart. James 5:7

Junior School Principal’s Message

Mrs. Carol-Anne Swayzie (van Es ’80) — csawayzie@smamb.ca

As the weather becomes brisker, the junior students are settling into their new routines. September and October flew by, with many events for our junior students: Grade 7 Camp, the junior Walk for Cancer, Come-and-See Week, presentations with our community police officer, Constable Buduhan, and our school-wide Halloween celebration.

During Grade 7 Camp students had the opportunity to develop new connections with their classmates, face unique challenges and increase their awareness of their faith connection. Our symbol for reflection and prayer at Camp was a rainbow representing all the components of our gifts that we have to offer each other—which blend together in hope for the coming year.

During the Walk for Cancer, Grade 8 students raised funds in support of Cancer Care Manitoba. How wonderful to see compassionate support for a worthy need that has personally affected so many of our community members.

On the academic front, November and December bring a greater awareness of the needs we have to offer each other—which blend together in hope for the coming year.

My personal thanks to all the teachers who give so freely of their time and talents to ensure that our youngest school community members are nurtured and celebrated. Amidst the busyness of life and many co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, I encourage all to find a sense of balance that enhances well-being and growth and opportunities to “just be.”

Happy November everyone! What blessings we enjoy in our lives!
Come-and-See Week

"Let us be grateful for the days the Lord gives us." Mother Marie-Rose’s words are as true today as they were 175 years ago. During Mother Marie-Rose Week (October 5 to 11) we welcomed 19 students and 7 staff from our SNJM Network of Schools (Academy of the Holy Names in Tampa, FL, Academy of the Holy Names in Albany, NY, St. Mary’s Academy in Portland, OR, Holy Names Academy in Seattle, WA, Holy Names High School in Oakland, CA, and Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra, CA). The Network group included an SMA team represented by Mrs. Christine Dado, Chloe Catella ’22, Ashlynn Lavoie ’22 and Colleen McConnell ’22. The group experienced classes, extracurricular activities, explored our city which shaped SMA all while building community.

At the prayer service for the Feast of Blessed Marie-Rose, each school had an opportunity to share how they have been casting fire upon the earth. It is clear that all of our Network of Schools are imbued with the spirit and legacy of Mother Marie-Rose. Through the many activities, conversations and prayers throughout the week, this group grew closer and it was obvious they spoke a common language as SNJM Sister schools.

The positive reflections and feedback we received from our participants spoke volumes, such as:

“I loved having the opportunity to meet new people! Everyone was so friendly and I feel like I made some truly amazing friends. This was my first time connecting with other SNJM sisters and it was nice to see all of us come together and get to know one another. I also enjoyed being able to see the beautiful city of Winnipeg. This was my first time out of the United States and taking this trip has inspired me to want to travel even more. All the activities we participated in—such as going to the zoo and the museum—were extremely fun and I am so grateful that I was able to experience them.”

Come-and-See Week was a large endeavour and the support and involvement of our entire community was remarkable. We extend an extra special thanks to our host families and staff who welcomed guests into their homes, and even cared for them a little longer when we realized flights were canceled due to the snow.

Where do we go from here? The group is using social media platforms to maintain their relationships. We will have conversations with our schools to see if something can take place in the future to maintain the bonds among the schools. A student participant reflected:

“I hope that experiences similar to Come-and-See Week will be offered to future students because I had an amazing experience. I think that all of the SNJM schools could benefit from connecting with one another more often so that we can form a closer bond. This was personally one of the best experiences that I have ever had”.

Additionally, a staff participant shared,

“The girls loved making connections with other students, the host families and the community at SMA Winnipeg. This gave all of us the feeling that the SNJM community is much larger than just the walls of our school. To see how the SNJM charism is alive in each school was very powerful”.

And so, we are indeed grateful to the Lord for the days that were given to us. May we remember the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary that inspired and guided Blessed Marie-Rose and her companions, and pray for them to continue guiding us as well.

Go to the following links for:
Come-and-See Week photo gallery: www.smaphotos.ca/comeandsee2019
Thank you video sent by Academy of the Holy Names in Tampa: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VjEdxe6CmA$Z7UCC2t1vKrd5xFQIAJr5/view?usp=sharing
Junior Extended Service Experience

Sr. Michelle Garlinski ’88, SNJM — mgarlinski@smamb.ca

Mark your calendars Grades 7, 8 and 9 Students

SMA’s Junior Extended Service Experience (JESE) is coming your way June 22 to 25, 2020!

Theme: Beatitude Attitude – Be Happy!
This is an extended justice immersion and education experience for our younger students taking place in Winnipeg, based out of St. Mary’s Academy. Participants will learn more about our Christian tradition of service while they serve others, build community, grow in faith and have fun!

Applications available November 19, 2019 – Space is limited! Information brochure and application form will be available on our website at the following link smamb.ca/student-life/co-curricular/extended-service-experiences.

SMA is committed to offering Extended Service Experiences for our Junior (local experience) and Senior High (international experience) students. As articulated in our Vision statement, St. Mary’s Academy is committed to, “a sense of social responsibility and a commitment to service and generosity to others.”

Mandatory Assessments

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie (van Es ’80) — caswayzie@smamb.ca

Two major assessment periods take place during the school year, in January and June.

Grade 12 Provincial Comprehensive ELA Standards Test
January 7 to 10, 2020. These dates have been set for the entire province by the Manitoba Department of Education and Training.

SMA Common and Cumulative Assessments
We have reserved January 17 and 20 as “Flex Days”. Some subject areas will have a common and cumulative assessment scheduled on those dates, and affected students will be required to be at school for the duration of their scheduled assessment. There are no regularly scheduled classes on those dates.

For other subjects, common and cumulative assessments will take place during dates outside of “Flex Days”, at a point/s of the course where it makes the best sense. These will typically be held during regular class times, with some assessments following a process model over the span of a few days. Information regarding these assessments should have been provided in your daughter’s course outlines. Specific dates and expectations of upcoming common and cumulative assessments will be conveyed to students in Early November by the subject area teachers.

Final Exams, June 2020
Grade 12: June 3 to 11, 2020
Grade 11: June 8 to 16, 2020
Grades 7 to 10: June 15 to 18, 2020

All students are expected to be present during assessment periods/exams. A doctor’s certificate is required to verify illness or absence.

Parents are asked to NOT book holidays or time away from school during these periods. If a student misses an assessment, it will affect the value of their final mark.
We are in November and we have much to celebrate and be thankful for this fall. Campus Ministry has been able to connect and build community with students through New Student Orientation day, the Grade 12 Day of Reflection, Grade 9 Welcome, Grade 7 Camp, school Masses, prayer services and rituals. We shared breakfast together at our monthly Breakfast Club meetings, hosted our annual Service Fair, celebrated Mother Marie-Rose with our sister schools at Come-and-See Week and welcomed guests at International day.

Our annual Service Fair in September gave students an opportunity to talk to representatives from various organizations, and learn about the many service-learning opportunities available to them. We were fortunate to have 13 organizations spend the day with us. These organizations and more can be found on our school website under Faith Life—Service Learning. Watch for new and exciting Service Learning opportunities in our Student Bulletin (accessible from the homepage of our website).

On October 6 we celebrated the Feast day of Mother Marie-Rose—MMR as we lovingly refer to her. MMR founded the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in October of 1843. It is through her vision and desire to educate the poor and empower women spiritually and intellectually that SMA is the school it is today. We spent a wonderful week highlighting MMR in many ways. On Monday we began our celebration with a school wide prayer where we had the opportunity to meet all of our guests from our sister schools. That afternoon the grade seven students were treated to an MMR Story Time to learn more about her life. Our students then tested their new knowledge of MMR at our lunch time Trivia Tuesday. On Wednesday students and staff were challenged to bring in socks for those in need in the broader Winnipeg community. Thursday saw students on a scavenger hunt throughout the school to find MMR. Our week long celebration was brought to a close with a wrap-up game of Kahoot while enjoying cookies.

On October 28 we celebrated the SNJM Foundation Day—two members of each homeroom had tea & treats with their SNJM Prayer Pal.

We have also settled into the routine for the year, many of our ongoing ministries have started. These events allow students to share their gifts and talents with our community:

**Wednesday Morning Prayer:** Wednesday Morning Prayer begins at 8:00 AM and takes place every Wednesday until the May long weekend. Each week a different homeroom leads the ministries as we celebrate together with Eucharist or Morning Prayer. Parents and families are welcome to join us in Holy Names Chapel (2nd floor of the Administration Building).

**Harvest Thursday:** From the middle of October until the end of May a small group of students accompanied by a teacher, help sort and distribute groceries to the community at the Unitarian Universalist Church (a Winnipeg Harvest satellite distribution location).

**AMS@SMA (A Monthly Service at St. Mary’s Academy):** We help at various locations around the city including: Villa Rosa on November 19, The Angel Squad for Misericordia Health Center on December 3, and The Convalescent Home of Winnipeg, TBA.

**Junior Club L.E.M.O.N (Leaders Embarking on a Mission Over Noon/Nourishment):** This is a branch of Campus Ministry for junior high students. This is a great place to meet new people, help others, build a sense of community and share faith.

Looking ahead we will be joining Development and Peace for their student workshop on November 14 and planning our annual Advent Services for December 2 and 3.

As we continue to Celebrate our Legacy, our quest this year is to Cast Fire. Each of us is called to do that in our own way. Our homeroom classes have been challenged to find a way they can help make a difference in our world through Learning, Faith, Service or Leadership. Some of the ideas that are already in action are a Hygiene Collection for Resource Assistance for Youth, a class collection for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, a book and clothing drive for the Salvation Army and a bake sale to raise funds for our SNJM school community in Lesotho, Africa.

As you enjoy the beauty in changes of our seasons and begin to prepare for Advent, how will you cast fire this year?
Drama Department

Ms. Laura Davey ’05 — ldavey@smamb.ca

Our students are working hard this fall on many different units and styles of theatre. So far, we have worked on monologues, scene work, technical production, performance production, theatrical genres, adaptations and more—and it’s only November!

As an ensemble project, Drama Performance exams take place throughout the year, to maximize rehearsal and stage time for all students, at all grade levels:

Grade 9 Exam: The Diary of Anne Frank, will take place on February 20
Grade 10 Exam: A murder mystery play will take place March 18

Grade 11 Exam: An original collective creation by the students, takes place on April 30

Grade 12 Exam: Selection TBD. This is a full-scale production on May 21.

Times will be announced in February. We are so excited about the dedication and commitment of our drama students to their learning and education!

The Sound of Music

Ms. Laura Davey ’05 — ldavey@smamb.ca

The HALLS are alive with the Sound of Music! We are SO excited in this 150th year of SMA to be producing Rodgers and Hammerstein’s classic musical “The Sound of Music” from November 27-30. Our students have been working so hard in all areas of our Performing Arts wing! They are building sets, designing costumes, acting and singing their hearts out. There is so much energy and excitement around this show, which shares the iconic story of Maria Rainer and her journey from the abbey to the Von Trapp family singers.

We are so blessed to be honouring this strong woman of faith in a year of celebrating our own SNJM sisters and their legacy. This is going to be an incredibly memorable show and we look forward to seeing you there! If there is any line in the script that resonates with our 150th birthday, and the dedication and tenacity of the Sisters – it is “Climb every mountain, 'till you find your dream!”

See showtimes and purchase tickets at smamb.ca/events/dramatic-arts-production.

Durocher Library

Submitted on behalf of the Library “I Love to Read” Student Committee

Ms. Sheryl Chongva — schongva@smamb.ca
Ms. Kelsey Jennings — kjennings@smamb.ca

Last year an announcement was made that SMA would be the recipient of a 2019 ‘I Love to Read Month’ grant from the Manitoba School Library Association (MSLA). On behalf of the Library committee, it is with great pleasure that we thank everyone who helped with the preparations for I Love to Read Month and the writing of the grant application. What we plan to do with the winnings is simple: We are going to use it to help promote our school’s I Love to Read Month, and build on activities we’ve done in previous years. We will use funds to help us raise awareness about I Love to Read Month and purchase prizes that will encourage everyone to participate.

For those who do not know, I Love to Read Month is about books. Books unlock our imagination and endless fantasies, from wizards to gods to even a simple love story. So why is it important to us? It lets us appreciate the joys of reading and literature. Joys that we will pass on to generations to come.

We are grateful to everyone who is involved in I Love to Read Month, whether it be part of the planning committee or just reading for Drop Everything and Read. We will do our best to make I Love to Read Month in February fun and eventful.
Flames Volleyball

We are now 6 weeks into jumping, diving, spiking, serving and passing in the 2019 volleyball season. Seven teams, composed of 90 athletes are training hard and practicing with much enthusiasm, commitment and dedication.

Grade 7
The Grade 7 athletes have participated in their first two Development Tournaments. Flames’ athletes Sophia Anadranistikas (Grade 12), Lauren Douthart, Sydney Ostir (Grade 11), Taya Thoendel, Katya Cisneros, Sasha Buckberger (Grade 10) are committed to coaching and supporting these two teams. Two developmental tournaments take place on November 7 and 18. Thank you to Mrs. Deb May who has taken over the role of Head Coach. Stay tuned for more details.

Grade 8
The Grade 8 team with Coach Scott Koskie have been practicing hard. They are halfway through the season in the Pembina Trails Athletic Association and are looking forward to their upcoming league play and tournaments at Isaac Newton, Grant Park and Leila North.

Grade 9
The Grade 9 team, with Coach Megan Ross and alumna volleyball athlete Sumathi Santiago ’18 began their season with a win at Acadia Junior High. The team also secured top spot at the Collège Béliveau tournament that took place November 1 and 2. Coming up on November 15 a competition at MBCI takes place. League play began October 2 and the team will continue to work towards another Pembina Trails Athletic Association league championship. League games are Mondays and Wednesdays.

Junior Varsity
The Junior Varsity team, coached by 20 year SMA coaching veteran Leanne Leskiw and Ellen Enns are currently involved in league play with the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference. They have competed in four tournaments thus far at finishing 1st at Windsor Park, 2nd at the SMA Invitational and 3rd at Miles Mac and MBCI tournaments. The team is currently ranked in the top ten as quoted by the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association.

Varsity
The Varsity team with Coaches Marshall Lawrence, Alicia Murray and Sarah Glowa are currently ranked in the top ten for high school teams in the Province according to the Manitoba High School Athletic Association. League play continues on Monday and Wednesdays. Playoffs begin November 7.

Congratulations to all teams on a fabulous start to the season! Thank you to all the volunteer coaches; we are surrounded by fabulous role models, amazing dedication and commitment to improving and strengthening our volleyball program. Thank you for your continued support of the athletic department.

For more information please contact Jen O’Leary, Nicole McGlenen or Demetro Danyluk at 204-477-0244.

Flames Cross Country

Congratulations to all athletes on the Flames Cross Country Running team. All that we ask of every person who joins the program is, “nobody works harder than you”, and once again team members lived up to that promise. With this they have received various awards acknowledging their efforts.

Junior Team
The Junior team won the conference championship and finished off winning the Athletics Manitoba Provincial School Team Championship. Congrats to the following team members: Sara Johnstone, Jordyn Allison, Ellie Bru, Ashley Garland, Katie Moon, Mayumi Brana, Tara Jackson, Isabel Ostermann and Juliana Cordeiro.

Senior Team
The Senior team had a great season—they won the conference championship, Athletics Manitoba Provincial School Team Championship and then capped off their season winning the MHSAA Provincial Championship. The Provincial win came in fine fashion; it was a challenging course with extreme weather in Stony Mountain.

In Cross Country a perfect score is 15 points and our Flames came close to that score with a total of 16. Congratulations to Cadence Christie (1st Overall), Adra Barnet (2nd Overall), Alyssa Moon, Gabi Denis, Arianna Fulcher, Lily Francis, Emma Sywake, Abby Sywake, Katherine Bayer-Cheung, Jasmine DeCaire, Ella Thomson, Katie Sierhuis, Caitlyn Willison, Elle Wood, Shea Carter, Grace Francis, Melodie LePage, Jenna Solomon, and Jordyn Espenell. Special congratulations to the grade 12s who are in their final year running for the Flames.

Please come and see Mr. Danyluk if you’re interested in joining the team for next year. Thank you to all the team members for their great efforts, camaraderie, keeping the Flame alive and especially the great memories and laughs. Thanks also to Mr. Rauno Ruus for his dedication and commitment to the Flames. Indoor track and field is starting very soon, please see Mr. Danyluk for further details regarding the season and expectations.
**From the Advancement Office**

Mrs. Kerri Moore (McIvor ’94) — kmoore@smamb.ca

We are still buzzing with excitement from our SMA 150th Birthday Gala that took place over Homecoming weekend in September! Over 700 guests were in attendance to honour the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and celebrate our 150-year legacy as a preeminent educator of young women in the Province of Manitoba. We are incredibly grateful for such a positive response and look forward to next year!

In October, Grade 9 students were given the opportunity to hear alumnae discuss their careers at the first Career and Mentorship event of the school year. The girls listened to a police officer, naturopath, interior designer, and an agronomist, talk about the day to day life in their jobs and the paths they took to get there.

On November 21, we will host the second Career and Mentorship event of the school year, Ask an Alum, from 12:30 – 3:00 PM. This event provides Grades 11 and 12 students the opportunity to casually meet with recent grads and talk about the expectations of post secondary life and transitioning out of SMA. Please encourage your Grade 11 or 12 daughter to attend. There will be recent alumnae from a wide variety of post secondary schools and programs available to answer questions the students may have about university life. If you have a daughter that recently graduated and is interested in participating, please have them contact Emma Sherren, Alumnae Relations and Events Coordinator, at esherren@smamb.ca.

On December 8 at 2:00 PM we will be hosting our final 150th event, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass Steeped in Tradition High Tea. Join us at St. Mary’s Academy for Mass in Alumnae Hall, and Tea afterwards in the cafeteria. We are currently collecting tea cups and saucers, and/or tea pot donations to be used for the tea, as well as at many future events. If you have tea cups to donate to the school, please contact Emma Sherren at esherren@smamb.ca.

Lastly, on December 18 the class of 2019 will join us at the school for Drinks Under the Dome. This traditional event is an opportunity for the recent graduating class to collect their yearbooks, catch up with classmates since graduation, and visit the school for the first time as alumnae.

I hope everyone has a healthy and restful remainder of 2019!

**From the Alumnae Office**

Ms. Emma Sherren ’11 — esherren@smamb.ca

We’ve enjoyed continuing the celebration of our 150th Birthday throughout the summer and into the new school year!

On September 28, we had a wonderful time reminiscing with many alumnae at the Commemorative Years Brunch and throughout the afternoon during the Homecoming Day activities. We are so grateful for such a positive response and look forward to next year!

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I hope everyone has a healthy and restful remainder of 2019!

**From the Admission Office**

Mrs. Kerri Moore (McIvor ’94) — kmoore@smamb.ca

St. Mary’s Academy is hosting our Open House on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM. We are excited to host prospective families, allowing them an opportunity to hear what an Academy education offers, tour our beautiful campus and speak with students, faculty and parents.

If you have questions about the Open House or the Admissions process please contact Kerri Moore at kmoore@smamb.ca.

**From the Accounting Office**

For families who chose Plan B for tuition payments, please remember that your final payment will be withdrawn from your account on or after January 2, 2020.

Charitable donation receipts for the 2018-2019 school year, for inclusion with your 2019 tax return, are being prepared and will be mailed in February. Receipts for the 2019-2020 school year, for inclusion with your 2020 tax return, will be issued in February 2021.

The accounting office will be closed December 23, 2019 to January 3, 2020.
AROUND THE ACADEMY

150th Community Picnic

Launch of Legacy Rose Garden

150th Gala

150th Mass at St. Boniface Cathedral-Basilica

Parent Information Session

Walk for Cancer

Come-and-See Week

Cross Country Provincial Champions
(left - Adra Barnet ’23, middle - Cadence Christie ’22)