



St. Mary's Academy

AUGUST 2012 NEWSLETTER

From the Director - Sister. S. Wikeem

Though it is still mid-summer, the August newsletter signals that the school office will reopen in a couple of weeks and the 2012-2013 school year will officially begin. Please check the SMA website for information and updates.

We welcome two new staff members to SMA this fall, both of whom are known within our school community. Dawn Bohonos will replace Mrs. Kendra Lê who will be on MAT leave. An alumna of SMA, Ms Bohonos has many years experience as a high school English teacher and department head in the public system. Mrs. Kelly Hill will relocate back to Winnipeg and rejoin the SMA staff in the science and math departments after an absence of 5 years.

We also welcome Mrs. Gina Borkofski to the SMA staff. As Communications Coordinator she will assist in the delivery of marketing and communications programs that support and enhance the Academy's public relations, alumnae relations, recruiting, and fund raising.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new SMA families. I encourage all parents, new and returning, to attend Parents' Night on Wednesday, September 19th where you will receive information about school programs and activities. Following the meetings, the Parents' Guild will host a wine and cheese reception in the cafeteria. Come to meet the teachers and each other.

From the Principal - Mrs. C. Yunyk

Summer is a time to kick back, relax and enjoy! I hope you are all taking in this sunny and warm Manitoba summer surrounded by friends and family. For 28 SMA students, summer presented an opportunity to travel and serve in two communities; one in Loma Linda El Salvador, the other in Yakima Valley and Seattle Washington. From June 30—July 14, Team El Salvador benefitted from a life-enhancing experience working in solidarity with our very needy yet joy-filled brothers and sisters in Loma Linda! From July 14—25, Team SMA spent time in the Yakima Valley learning about SNJM sponsored projects, followed by a week in Seattle at Holy Names Academy participating in the SNJM Youth Justice Project with students from our SNJM network of schools. Many thanks to Ms. C. Marquez, Mr. J. Villa, Ms. M. Garlinski and Ms. C. Wojcik for accompanying our students on these incredible journeys!

As our summer break draws to a close, our school is gearing up for another fulfilling and enriching school year. Each year, faculty selects a theme to guide planning for all aspects of school life. Being the home of the FLAMES sports teams, the SPARK student newspaper and MARIAN TORCH yearbook, it only seemed fitting to choose a theme denoting fire. This year we are called to embrace and live our call as a **PEOPLE of FIRE**; being called to be **faith-filled, respectful, empathetic** people of **integrity**. The following Gospel passage from Luke *"I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already blazing"* inspired our foundress Mother Marie-Rose Durocher to be the voice for marginalized women and children and to be the hands and feet which serve to heighten awareness of social injustices in our world. I invite you to be inspired by this challenge to be a community of faith, integrity, respect and empathy!

Kindly read this newsletter for school opening details. We look forward to meeting you and playing a major role in your daughter's education and development. It promises to be a year filled with wonderful challenges and opportunities! God Bless!



Contents

Director	1
Principal	1
Uniform Sale	1
School Opening	2
General Info	2
September Events	2
Scholarships	3
Service Learning	3
Alumnae Tea	3
Grade 7 Camp	3
Corner Store	3
Music Lessons	3
Parents' Guild	4
International Day	4

Fall Uniform Sale September 4th & 5th

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Payment must be made by Visa, MasterCard, Debit Card or Cash. **Cheques not accepted.** If a student is coming with a parent's credit card, the student must have a note signed by the parent authorizing the student to use the card.

Starting Friday, September 7th the Uniform Shop will be open on Fridays during the lunch hour.

School Opening

New Students

Orientation Day
Wednesday,

September 5th

Alumnae Hall –9:00 a.m.
(followed by a meeting with
homeroom teachers)

School Orientation Tours
with our

“In the Navy”

Ambassador Team

10:00—11:00 a.m.

Uniforms not required
Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.

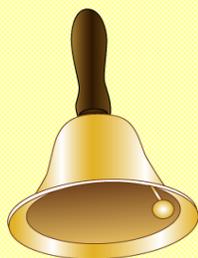
Welcome New Parents

On Orientation Day,
Wednesday September 5th,
please join us in the **Board
Room** (second floor), for a
continental breakfast from
8:15 a.m. —11:00 a.m.
Parking is available in **Lot
B**. You will have an
opportunity to meet other
parents and staff and to tour
the school.

WELCOME BACK !

All Students

Thursday, September 6th
Classes Begin—Day 1



Cafeteria Service
begins September 10th

General Information

Update from Administration – Mrs. Connie Yunyk will be responsible for all activities and academic programs for students in Grades 11 and 12. Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie will be responsible for all activities and academic programs for students in Grades 9 and 10. Mrs. Michelle Klus will be responsible for all activities and academic programs 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.

Student Timetables, Student Agendas, lockers and locks – will be distributed during the homeroom period (8:30 a.m.) on Thursday, September 6, 2012. The agenda includes the school calendar, general school and student information, policies and procedures. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this information.

Homeroom lists will be posted at school entrances and on classroom doors. Students are to proceed directly to their homeroom at 8:30 a.m. for opening exercises, timetable and agenda distribution and locker assignment. Full winter or summer uniform is required. Bring school supplies.

Textbooks – On the first day of classes, subject area teachers issue numbered textbooks to each student. Each assigned textbook is the responsibility of the student to whom it is assigned. In June 2013, students will be 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 and a \$25.00 fine by June 26, 2013.

On the SMA Website – www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca

- 2012-2013 school calendar
- school supply list
- parking application
- this August newsletter



September Events

Opening School Liturgy – Our first School Mass will be celebrated on **Friday, September 7th at 2:00 p.m.** in Alumnae Hall. Parents welcome!

Grade 9 Welcome Day—Friday, September 14th — Workshops and activities are being planned to facilitate the transition for all Grade 9 students. All students are strongly encouraged to stay to the end at 10:00 p.m. Specific details and permission forms will be distributed the first week back to school.

Parent Information Evening—Wednesday, September 19th -7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall. At that time you will have the opportunity to meet your daughter's teachers, the Administration team and members of the Parents' Guild.

Walk for Cancer — St. Mary's Academy students will be participating in the annual Walk for Cancer on **Thursday, September 20th**. A \$10.00 flat fee will be collected from each student for a donation and to defray costs for student-led activities. Further information will be provided to students in early September.

The Grade 12 Retreat is planned for **Wednesday September 26th** (details to follow). This is a regularly scheduled school day at an off-site location and **attendance is mandatory**. Please note that the day will end at approximately 7:30 p.m. with Liturgy—parents are strongly encouraged to attend.

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 are:

- Grade 9 – Jae Yeon Park
- Grade 10 – Jodi Kristjanson
- Grade 11 – Natalie Desaulniers

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

- Grade 9 – Léonie Todd
Su Hyun Lim
- Grade 10 – Raven Rickner
Jung Min Hong
- Grade 11 – Megan Bourns
Victoria Ayo

Service Learning @ SMA

Service Learning is realizing that service is not about what we do – it is about who we are. We will continue to live this dimension of our mission in the coming school year. It begins by identifying needs in the community, church or school; actively responding to these needs; and reflecting on the experience.

Service learning for 2012-2013 will include **ALL** students from Grades 7 to 12. Students are welcome to start planning or serving at their site before the school year begins. A **Service Fair** is being planned at the school for Tuesday, September 18th 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. featuring service organizations from around Winnipeg. Please refer to the website for the brochure, reflection questions, necessary forms for parents and service site supervisors, and possible service learning sites.

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us. (R.W. Emerson)

Where could your gifts serve those in need?

Grade 7 Camp

Grade 7 students will be at Camp Arnes from **Wednesday, October 10th to Friday, October 12th**, a community-building and enriching experience. Students will be supervised by Camp Arnes staff, SMA faculty and Grade 11 student camp counsellors.

The cost of attending camp will be approximately \$225.00. An information package will be sent home in September with your daughter. Should you have questions, contact Mrs. Michelle Klus at 478-6036 or via email at mklus@stmarysacademy.mb.ca



Wellington Crescent Academy prepares to Turn 110!

On August 31st, 1902, in St. Mary's Parish (now the Cathedral), Archbishop Langevin blessed the corner stone for the Wellington Crescent Academy. Construction took the better part of a year to complete at a cost of \$75,000. The Sisters moved from the Notre Dame Academy into their new home on August 14, 1903.

Alumnae Tea

The SMA Alumnae Association will hold its Annual Tea on **Sunday, September 30th**. All former students, parents, families, and friends of past and present students are invited. Mass at 12 o'clock in Alumnae Hall followed by the Tea in the cafeteria until 3:30 p.m.



This is a great opportunity for new students to introduce their extended families to their new school.

Corner Store News

Come and see our wide variety of sportswear as well as SMA charms at the Corner Store open school days (except Tuesdays) from 12:30-1:30 p.m. starting Sept. 14th. The SMA website showcases our merchandise. We accept gently used uniforms, white shoes and gloves (for Convocation). Sportswear will be available at the Uniform Sale Sept 4th & 5th. We remind parents and students that we accept cash or cheques only.

Looking forward to seeing you throughout the school year.

Private Music Lessons

If you are interested in private piano, music theory, or beginner guitar lessons at the school please call for further information:

Sister Josephine Chudzik 's
direct line 
284-3309.

**International Day
Sunday,
November 4, 2012**

International Day is the Parents' Guild largest fundraiser of the year. It is similar to Folklorama with delicious ethnic food, displays and entertainment.

Some pavilions are confirmed for this year we are still looking for a few more pavilions. If you would like to share your cultural background please contact **Bonnie Cadieux** intday@stmarysacademy.mb.ca Kits are available to start you off with lots of support along the way.

There is also a raffle, a Rainbow Auction, home baking and delightful entertainment minstrels.

The event is open to the SMA community and the public.

An event of this magnitude requires considerable commitment from our SMA parent community. Many volunteers are required. Time commitments vary with the task.

Please take time to complete and return the online volunteer form to the school.



From the Parents' Guild – Mrs. Kathleen Reid, President

Welcome to all parents of St. Mary's Academy students. By virtue of the fact that you have a daughter attending St. Mary's Academy, you are a member of the Parents' Guild. You will be joining a dedicated community of volunteers whose outstanding commitment of time and talents are very much appreciated by the school.

The purpose of your Parents' Guild is to promote the well-being of St. Mary's Academy, to help further the work of the school, and to endeavour to assist financially by raising funds for selected projects. The Guild fulfills this purpose by involving you, its members. Volunteering is a gift that goes both ways; it gives you the opportunity to help out where it is needed, as well as giving you the chance to connect with other parents, thus further instilling the school's desire to foster and build a strong community. The Guild is thankful of any amount of time you are able to spend with us. Whether you dole out candy to the girls at the Corner Store at lunch time, serve Ukrainian perogies at International Day, our main fundraiser, or serve coffee at one of our many hospitality events, it is all important. Please be sure to check the SMA website for activities planned for the coming year and opportunities to volunteer.

Our meetings, which are held in the Durocher Library, are where we discuss Guild activities, make decisions on how to spend the money we raise, and receive updates on school matters from Sister Susan Wikeem, Director of St. Mary's Academy. Meetings also provide parents with an opportunity to mingle and get to know one another.

We strive to keep our meetings under 90 minutes, and we are all treated by Sister Susan to coffee and a snack. New this year, members of the Guild Executive will be on hand 15 minutes prior to all regular meetings to provide new parents with a chance to come a little early, get settled and ask questions.

At one of our meetings last year the Principal and Vice Principal gave an informative presentation on the school's assessment strategy. This coming year we plan to offer one or more information sessions for parents on the important topic of social media. Stay tuned for information about presentations to be held directly after select Guild Meetings.

Our AGM, followed by our first meeting will be held on Tuesday September 11th, 2012, beginning at 7:00pm. We look forward to meeting you and hope that you and your daughter will become involved in the larger St. Mary's community.

Meeting Schedule 2012-2013

- Tuesday September 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. (AGM)
- Tuesday October 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday December 4, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. (meeting and Christmas celebration)
- Tuesday February 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday March 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday May 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. (Guild elections)
- Tuesday June 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. (meeting and windup)

Successful Fundraising

The Parents' Guild raised \$68,000 in 2011-2012. This money was used to enhance our daughters' school life in the following ways:

- A student agenda for each student
- Financial support for student education enrichment activities
- Financial support for the Bursary Fund
- Parents' Guild Academic scholarship (to a graduating student)
- Parents' Guild School Citizenship Award (to a graduating student)
- A gift for each graduate
- Hospitality and catering for the staff appreciation luncheon
- Hospitality at the open house for prospective students and their families
- Hospitality for new parents at the May Carnival
- Aperture 3 software for Art
- Vertical drying & storage rack for Art
- Science - DNA class set
- 2 computers for classrooms
- 2 LCD projectors
- Library resources - frames, posters etc.
- Display cabinet for Home Economics
- Leadership Council support
- New table cloths for school events
- Books for drama program

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