



St. Mary's Academy

December 2012

From the Director - Sister S. Wikeem

A big thank you to the SMA Parents' Guild for a very successful International Day. A special thank you goes to Bonnie Cadieux for convening the event for a third year in a row, and to Yolande Franzmann who once again convened the raffle. The final account is not complete yet but it looks like a record profit from the raffle and pavilions of approximately \$30,000.

At the end of this month we will say goodbye and thanks to Mrs. Demetra Hajidiacos, drama teacher, and to Ms. Marge Fischer, Advancement Office admin assistant. We wish them happiness and success in future endeavours.

I am pleased to report that the drama position has been filled internally. In January there will be some shifting of teacher work loads. Ms. Laura Davey will move into the drama position. Ms. Stephanie Zirino, who has been replacing Ms. Dyck-Lyons during her Maternity leave, will take Laura Davey's position. Ms Beauchamp will teach the grade 12 drama course. Ms. Dyck-Lyons will return. All is good!

From time to time I receive phone calls from frus-

trated drivers who are not SMA parents. The last call was a complaint about traffic jams on Stafford caused by parents making a left hand turn across traffic into the yard. The plea is to encourage right hand turns only. Other calls have been about drivers cutting in to the right lane on Stafford. And finally – calls from pedestrians who claim many drivers who exit to Wellington Crescent don't slow down at the gates to look for pedestrians on the sidewalk. I assure you I will not be directing traffic outside the school grounds. However, please be aware of these concerns and take the necessary precautions.

Phase 3B construction continues behind the green fence. Most of the work is now taking place inside. Substantial completion is scheduled for end of January. To pay for this portion of expansion we are seeking a commitment from every SMA family - according to your means. The pledge form is available on the website.

May this Advent season bring you a renewed sense of God's presence and love. And may your family have a peaceful, joyful Christmas.

From the Principal - Mrs. C. Yunyk

Blessings and greetings to everyone!

This is indeed a wonderful time of the year! Our school community is on **FIRE** and proud of the many achievements since September. At the extra-curricular level, our sports teams have held high the torch in Volleyball, Cross-country running, Ice Hockey and Golf, our Junior and Senior Debate teams continue to compete competitively, and our school clubs and groups create and implement purposeful activities for the entire student body, many of which have been uploaded to our website's front page (www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca) and our SMA FaceBook site. Truly a gifted and generous group of young women, faculty and staff!

As I write this message our students are preparing themselves for the mid-year assessments (schedule

posted on SMA website) starting in December and ending January 22. All assessments are common and cumulative in nature worth 15% of your daughter's final grade for students in Grades 9 – 12 and for students in Grades 7 and 8 the value is 10% of their final grade. Kindly remember **not** to book family vacations during this time, as a missed assessment may adversely affect your daughter's progress and growth. If you have any questions or need clarification, please call me at 478-6033 or email me at cyunyk@stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

Wishing you all God's abundant blessings during this **ADVENT** season of faith, joy, love and hope! Merry Christmas and may you all have a happy and healthy 2013!

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Dates to Note:

- Dec 13-17: Mid Year Assessments
- Dec 21: Early Dismissal 12:35 pm
- Jan. 7: Classes Resume
- Jan. 8-11: Gr 12 ELA Provincial Standards Test
- Jan 10-15: Individual Grad Photos
- Jan 15: Early Dismissal 2:30 pm
- Jan 17-22: Mid Year Assessment
- Jan 25: No Classes Admin Day
- Jan 29: Open House 7:00 pm
- Feb 12: Grad Group Photos, Individual Grad Photo Retakes
- Feb 12: Report Card Distribution
- Feb 15: No Classes Catholic Schools' Day
- Feb 18: No Classes Louis Riel Day
- Feb 19: No Classes Faculty Mtg am
- P/T Conferences 1:30 - 8:30 pm
- Feb 20-22: La Semaine Française
- Feb 20: P/T Conferences 5:00 - 8:30 pm
- Feb 25: Course Options & Gr. 10 Post Secondary Info Night 7:00 pm
- Feb 25-Mar 1: Winnipeg Harvest Food Drive

Merry Christmas





Dear Jesus,
 As you came into the world so many years ago, clothed in flesh of a tiny baby
 Bringing hope, peace, and the promise of new life...
 Come to us now.
 Visit our hearts and fill our homes with the true Spirit of Christmas...
 The joy of Your presence,
 The comfort of Your peace,
 The light of Your love.
 Amen



Invitation

Everyone is invited to join us for Wednesday morning Mass or prayer starting at 8:00 a.m. in Holy Names Chapel.



Christmas Presents - Mrs. M. Klus

As a community, we respectfully encourage you to avoid purchasing Christmas gifts this year for KKs, classmates, staff or teachers. Instead we ask that you focus on the real meaning of Christmas and give freely of yourself to others in **kind gestures, service or in prayer**. If you strongly feel the need to give a gift, can we suggest a donation of money or time to a **Sisters of the Holy Names** project such as; **Holy Names House of Peace, Art-beat and Rossbrook House**. St. Mary's

Academy also supports the following programs: **Villa Rosa, Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre and our sister schools in Lesotho**. Our mission promotes social awareness which leads to action, with an emphasis on the poor, marginalized and disadvantaged. Thank you for making Christmas special for our brothers and sisters in our local, national or international community!

Campus Ministry - Ms. M. Garlinski

Fanning the flame - getting ready for Jesus! This was our focus for the Advent season as we prepare, hope, and wait for our Special Guest at Christmas. We have been busy in Campus Ministry these past few months continuing to be **People of F.I.R.E.** Our AMS@SMA has been to Rossbrook and Villa Rosa (and House of Peace in January!). J-Walking (Justice Walking) has been to the Welcome Home a couple of times for family night and met a few women at the House of Peace. Our Advent Services, Wednesday morning prayers, and Immaculate Conception celebration have provided on going ways for us to deepen our relationship with God

through Prayer. *Remembering the Women*, December 6 National Violence against women day is a sober reminder to us that 14 young women were victims in Montreal in 1989 and women continue to be targets of violence locally and globally. We have also continued to be involved in the many other events, activities and programs that our community offers. It's been a GREAT first half of the year and we say thanks God!!!

Blessings to you and your family as we welcome the Christ-Child this Holy Season and always!

Cross Country Running - Mr. D. Danyluk

Congratulations to the Varsity girls cross country team, for a very young team lead by our team captain Rebekah Sass. The girls had a remarkable season. The team is the 2012 West Winnipeg Athletic Conference and the Athletic Manitoba Provincial Milk Challenge champions. To go along with this the girls ran to a bronze medal performance at the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Championships at Spruce Woods Provincial Park. The day was miserably wet and cold for everyone however the team was able to overcome this and the many hills they had to climb. The team members are Rebekah Sass, Belinda Guerra, Fiona Ludlow, Elizabeth Wilde, Keziah Brothers, Melissa Dreger, Mackenzie Spellman, Michelle Paluszek, Monika Stanson, Tiffany Fernando, Angie Ngyuen, Alyssa Willison, Chantale Bosc, Alanna Thibodeau, Katie Scammell, Maia Idzikowski and Rachel

Beazley.

We would also like to acknowledge the individual performance of Rebekah Sass. Rebekah added on to her three gold medals and bronze medal performance from the 2012 high school provincial track and field championships. Her hard work continued to show through in her cross country performances as she won all 4 conference meets and went on to becoming the Overall Individual Champion at the MHSAA provincial cross country championship. This performance of excellence earned her the honour of being selected Manitoba High School athlete of the week. She had the opportunity to represent Manitoba at the National cross country championships in Vancouver.

Go Flames Go - Mr. D. Chell

Your SMA Flames hockey teams have both battled some adverse conditions in terms of injuries and missing players to remain competitive at their respective levels.

The Prep team is preparing for its fifth out of town trip as this article goes to press, its second annual trek west to the Mandi Schwartz Female Midget Hockey Classic in Wilcox, Saskatchewan (home of the host Notre dame Hounds AAA Midget Female team). Coming off a decent tournament the week previous down in Minnesota at the Gerald "Tinker" Bell Thoroughbreds Classic in South St. Paul, the Flames are a bit battered and bruised but also coming back to the form that saw them place in the top 4 out of 32 teams back in early September out in Hamilton, Ontario (Stoney Creek Midget Tournament).

Weekend trips to play in mini-tournaments included one in late October out in Morden, Manitoba where the Flames beat a team from Lloydminster, Alberta twice and gave the defending National Midget Female Champs and host team from Pembina Valley all it could handle in a tight 2-1 loss. A weekend trip two weeks later out to Thunder Bay, Ontario to play a three-game mini-series with the mighty Queens team (runners-up to the National Champs from Pembina Valley) did not go as well as hoped, due in large part to an injury-riddled line-up missing four regulars. As a consolation, the young ladies managed to advance ahead

of Thunder Bay out in Minnesota, capturing sixth place out of 16 teams as several injured players returned. Victories down there included a 7-0 pasting of the host Thoroughbreds from Minnesota and solid 4-1 win over a team from northern Michigan. Your Flames high school hockey team has improved a great deal from the start of the season in capturing its first victories of the year recently, including a very hard-fought and well-earned 3-1 win over Sturgeon Heights. Goaltenders Casey Dame and Erin Soenen have faced a lot of rubber and are to be commended for their efforts to keep this young and still growing team that has itself been hit by a rash of injuries, in each game. A Thursday, December 6th game vs. a high school team from Red Lake, Ontario will be a highlight of the month as the young ladies will be wearing pink jerseys and raising money for cancer research. Many thanks go out to the teachers, parents, staff and especially coaches, Larry Bumstead, Jason Panteluk, Sarah Carter and Rejean Beauchemin of the Prep team and Brad Porath, Lindsay Fennell and Megan Porath for the HS team, whose countless hours of time spent teaching, instructing, analyzing and recommending, and even sometimes repairing, have helped to make this very long and demanding season a memorable one for all involved!

Volleyball on Fire - Mrs. J. O'Leary

8 teams, 80 athletes, 2 teachers and 15 volunteers are neatly folding and putting away volleyball uniforms, storing knee pads on the top shelf and hanging up their volleyball court shoes. As of November 30th the 2012 St. Mary's Volleyball season has come to a close. All teams experienced a wide variety of success and positive experiences on and off the court whether it be establishing new relationships or maintaining old ones, learning about volleyball extensively and developing active healthy lifestyle practices.

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

1. 22 Grade 7-12 students participated in Mike Burchuk's (former Canadian Women's National Team coach) St. Mary's Volleyball Academy.
2. 60 Grade 7 athletes have participated in 3 developmental, friendly tournaments within the Pembina Trails School Division with High School Students as mentors, role models and coaches.
3. The Grade 7 Traveling team participated in the Grade 8 Diggers league and finished in the Top 8.
4. The Grade 8 Team finished 1st in the Grade 8 Spikers league with the Pembina Trails Athletic Association.

5. The Grade 9 Team finished 3rd with the Pembina Trails Athletic Association.

6. The Junior Varsity Team finished first in the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship and won the Silver Medal in the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Junior Varsity Provincial Championships. Congratulations to Megan Todoruk and Brett Whitla, who were chosen as Provincial All-Stars, Darby Coughlin as Player of the Match and to Brianna Patrick was the tournament MVP.

The Varsity Team won the Silver Medal at the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Championships and then finished in the Top 8 in the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Championships. Congratulations to Emily McPherson who won the Players Choice Award presented at the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Championships as well as Emily McPherson and Katie McLennan who were also chosen as Graduating All-Stars.

"It takes a village to raise a child". So with that in mind a HUGE thank you to all the volunteer coaches, parents, teachers, Administration, fans, and athlete's who so generously supported our Volleyball program this year.

Mid Year Assessment

- Dec. 13 Gr. 11 Physics
Gr. 12 Biology
Gr. 8 Social Studies
- Dec 14 Gr. 7-9 Math
Gr. 10-12 Pre-Calculus
Gr. 10-11 Essential Math
- Dec 17 Gr. 7,9,10 Science
AP Calculus
- Jan 8-11 Gr. 12 ELA Provincials
- Jan 17 Gr. 7-11 ELA
- Jan 18 Gr. 11 & 12 Chemistry
AP Chemistry
- Jan 21 Gr. 10 Religion
Gr. 11 Biology
Gr. 12 Essential Math
Gr. 12 Physics
- Jan 22 Gr. 7 & 9 Social Studies
Gr. 12 World Issues

Parents are reminded to refrain from booking holidays at this time as missed assessments will reflect a penalty for your daughter.

School Closure - Inclement Weather

If it is necessary to close school due to severe weather conditions or failure of an essential service before the school day begins, an announcement will be made on various radio stations including CBC, CJOB and HOT 103, as well as, the SMA website.

When a storm develops during the school day, the school will remain open until 3:30 p.m. Students will not be dismissed until parents pick up their daughters.

When a service fails during the school day and it is determined the school should close, students will phone parents to make arrangements before leaving the school. On these occasions the school will remain open until 3:30 p.m.

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 7th. Over one hundred Gr. 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. As a follow-up to the day, in our Career Development Class, students continued to reflect on their skills, interests and values. Each student will prepare and present a 'Me Box' as a final project during our first class in January. All parents/guardians need to sign the 'Me Box checklist'.

Post-Secondary Planning

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

Students planning on applying to universities outside of Manitoba should be doing so soon – if you need assistance, please email Ms. Uruski ASAP. All out of province applications will also require students to mail an official transcript in February. Please see Mrs. Duffy to request a copy after the date you have received your February report card.

Please note the following deadlines:

February 22, 2013 -

Early Application Deadline: University of Manitoba

March 1, 2013 -

Early Application Deadline: University of Winnipeg

(Ms. U. will be offering 'Online Application Workshops' during the last week in January. This is an important session to attend to ensure you are completing your application correctly. Please sign up at the beginning of January and attend one of the 4 workshop dates.)

Grade 11 Students Attend a 'Planning for Your Future' Session

Grade 11 students attended an information session presented by Ms. Uruski which provided an overview of Post Secondary options and details about the Advanced Early application process at the U of M and U of W based on Gr. 11 final marks. In late January all students will attend a 'Scholarship & Volunteering Workshop' to learn more about available scholarships, requirements and application tips along with hearing about the value of spending more time volunteering in the community. Students will be guided in preparing a 'scholarship resume'.

Campus Tours

Grade 11 students will also be attending the University of Manitoba Info Days on February 20. 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 similar programs offered at many universities across the country. The students will receive information about the advantages of becoming an affiliate of St. Paul's College at the U of M. More information to come home in late January.

February 19 (5-8pm) - Red River College Open House

February 20 (5-7pm) - U of Winnipeg Open House

Gr. 10 Career Development Classes

Grade 10 students will start their Career Class at the beginning of February. This course is a continuation of self-assessment and understanding one's talents and interests along with the continued research of various occupations + course requirements. Feb 25th (7pm), you and your daughter are invited to meet with representatives from our MB Post-Secondary Institutions to learn about entrance requirements and the courses students will need in Gr. 11/12. On April 10th all grade 10's will attend the Rotary Career Symposium where students will have access to information and ask questions of professionals regarding numerous occupations and fields of employment. Details about both these events will be provided to students once they start the Career course.

From the Accounting Office

Ms. B. Van Raes

Charitable donation receipts for the **2011-2012** school year, for inclusion with your **2012** tax return, are being prepared and will be mailed in late January. Receipts for the **2012-2013** school year, for inclusion with your **2013** tax return, will be issued in **January 2014**.

The accounting office will be closed December 24, 2012 to January 1, 2013. If you need to contact us during the Christmas break, Brenda Van Raes will be available as follows: January 2, 2013 to January 4, 2013 at 478-6042. Tuition payments will be withdrawn from your account on January 2, 2013. If you require any changes to your payment, please notify us by Thursday, December 20, 2012.



International Day- Mrs. B. Cadieux

On November 3rd, SMA celebrated the 38th annual International Day Parent Guild fundraising and community building event. With eight pavilions offering delicious cultural foods, many fabulous entertainers from our student body as well and the community, a bake sale, rainbow auction, art auction and cash lottery, our community celebrated it's diversity and heritage. Thanks to the efforts of our hundreds of parent volunteers and the generosity of those who attended, provide baked goods/rainbow auction items and purchased cash lottery tickets, our community was able to raise approximately \$31,000 to be used specifically to enhance the educational experience of our daughters at SMA.

Thank you to Ms. Nickel and her grade 12 art students for donating their art for auction (raising \$1000) and to Yolande Franzmann for her many hours and talents in coordinating the cash lottery effort.

As well, a special thank you to our committee of hard-working conveners who made the day possible through

their tireless efforts: Susan Yurkiw, Nicola Guttormson, Michelle Garlinski, Bobbi Jackson, Larry MacFarlane, Fran Mulhall, Shannon Roberts, Sharon Godiner, Genevieve Michael, Sheila Sachvie, Paul Cadieux, Diane and Dan Snidal, Angela Wandering Spirit, Elaine Murdoch, Elke Boersch, Monique Klemke, Samneek Sandhu, Grazia Prochazka, Jennifer Omega, Daisy Villagas, Jude Romualdo, Celina and Veronika Wierzbicki, Eunice Fatimehin-Oladele, Bola Oriyomi, Shelley Henn and Lorraine Kuzyk as well as our minstrels Daria Watkin and Gary Rossol.

Well done everyone and thank you!

The winners of the cash lottery draws were:

- 1st prize - Bonnie Cadieux
- 2nd prize - Elaine Hill
- 3rd prize - Christine Scaletta
- 4th prize - Pina Macchia
- 5th prize - Rhea Teranishi