



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

Newsletter for Parents and Students

February 2019

President's Message

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



The last time our newsletter hit your inbox, I wished you a Merry Christmas; now, we are well into 2019. This month's newsletter focuses on the "happenings" around the Academy, and here are a few highlights.

We welcome Mrs. Jodi Funk Clements, SMA's first Manager of Human Resources and Mr. Vincent Ocampo, SMA's first Junior Graphic Designer. Our staff is growing and we are grateful for these two very talented individuals.

We were very encouraged by the number of prospective families who came to our Open House in January - we had a full house! The admissions process is in full swing, with entrance tests and interviews to be completed by late February. This year, re-registration of current

students was advanced to January. I am happy to report that our retention of students is very high. Completing these two processes allows for an earlier start to planning, programming and hiring for the upcoming school year. Through our bursary fund, SMA strives to remain accessible to all qualifying families who wish to have their daughters experience an SMA education. In the current year, 86 students have been awarded bursaries totalling \$365,000, representing approximately 15% of our student body. The **deadline** for bursary applications for the upcoming **2019-2020 school year is May 1, 2019**. The application form can be found at <https://www.smamb.ca/admissions/bursary/>.

Our fourth annual **An Evening at the Academy** was a solid success once again this year, attended by 300 enthusiastic and generous guests. The event netted almost \$250,000 which included a significant donation to the Bursary Fund from our Manitoba Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM). We thank you all! We continue to collaborate with Stantec

and are very close to finalizing the Traffic Flow re-design and revision of estimated costs. We are hopeful that this information will be shared with our community well before spring break. While vehicular traffic flow through the grounds with safe and controlled drop-off points is central to the design, pedestrian safety and beautiful green spaces have not been compromised. Thank you for your patience and please continue to drive carefully and respectfully as you make your way through our driveway.

Finally, I am deeply touched by the many parents, students, faculty, staff, alumnae, board and community members who have signed up to volunteer on many of SMA's 150th Birthday event planning committees. This is encouraging and validates the work we are doing to honour and celebrate the Manitoba SNJM and St. Mary's Academy during this pivotal point in our history. YOU are part of this story and we welcome you to join us at one or many of our 150th birthday events, all of which can be found at <https://www.smamb.ca/about/150th-birthday/>. We hope to see you there!

Senior School Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Klus — mklus@smamb.ca



Each day I check the SMA website and see that we are another day closer to commencing the celebration of our 150th Birthday. It is such an exciting and monumental time, and I am both honored and blessed to be surrounded by such a rich legacy.

It's hard to believe that there are less than five months remaining in this school year. Before we know it, spring will be here and the students will be balancing enjoying the sunshine and preparing for their final exams. We wish the students all the best as they continue to learn and grow!

Plans are already well underway for next year including: re-registrations of current students; creating the school calendar; course selections and; the admission process of new students into our community.

This year for the first time, student course options were completed online via the PowerSchool portal. A reminder that Parent Teacher conferences will be happening on February 28 and March 1. The online parent/teacher Conference Manager opens on February 14. I encourage all parents to come and meet with their daughters' teachers as regular communication is crucial to students' education. Parental support plays a critical role in the successful completion of the school year, not only in meeting with teachers, but also by keeping our students focused on their school work and commitment to school clubs and teams, which is essential over the next few months. We appreciate being able to work collaboratively towards success for our students.

Junior School Principal's Message

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



It's hard to believe that we are in the midst of February and solidly progressing into the second half of the school year. Our Junior students are now deeply settled into their routines, and continue to grow as they face academic challenges and experience the changing dynamics that are part and parcel of this age.

The joy and energy of our Junior students never ceases to amaze me, and was very evident during our Open House in January. Their eagerness in volunteering to set up and lead tours and help out in any way they could is evidence of how much they feel that SMA is like a second home to them. February progress reports were distributed to all students on February 21st, providing an update of your daughter's progress in her academic growth to this point of the year. We look forward to meeting with parents and guardians at our upcoming Parent/Teacher conferences. When school and family work as partners, so much can be achieved! As was the case with our November conferences, all conferences are booked online through the Conference Manager system, which opened on February 14th.

As we look forward to Spring, we have many events occurring: Spirit Days just preceding Spring Break, Lenten preparations and Easter celebrations, and our final dance for Junior School students on Friday, April 26th. For those of you looking well ahead to planning and preparing for the year's end, Grades 7 and 8 write their exams the week of June 17th. Once they write their exams, the students will be finished with regular classes and looking ahead to their next year already; such is the speed with which another scholastic year passes!



St. Mary's Academy Celebrates 150 Years

St. Mary's Academy was established on May 1, 1869 by the Sisters of Charity of Montreal (more commonly known as the Grey Nuns) in the Red River Settlement in the vicinity of the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. By 1874, the Grey Nuns informed Archbishop Taché that they wished to return to their mission of health care and work among the poor. The Archbishop, in need of new teachers, reached out to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), a relatively new teaching congregation from Québec.

On August 22, 1874, Sisters Jean de Dieu, Superior, Marie Florentine, Electa-du-Sacré-Coeur and Marie Elie, all between the ages of 21 and 27, arrived in Winnipeg to assume responsibility of St. Mary's Academy. On September 1, 1874 the SNJM registered their first students

— twelve girls and seven boys, increasing to 126 students within weeks. From a rented two-room schoolhouse in 1869 to a 140,000 square foot building situated on 11 acres in 2019, St. Mary's Academy has navigated many changes. However, one thing has remained the same—its Mission to educate in a faith-based environment. To date, 62,736 students have graduated from St. Mary's Academy—a spirit, mind and body education has endured since the beginning.

To celebrate 150 years the Academy has several events and activities planned. The celebrations are for everyone who is and has been connected to the Academy—SNJM, Grey Nuns, alumnae, students, parents, faculty, staff, board members and friends. Commemorating 150 years is not only about celebrating friendships, reuniting with old friends, reminiscing with

colleagues or becoming better acquainted with new friends; it is also about observing and honouring the legacy of learning, faith, service and leadership. The listing below outlines celebrations which will take place from **May 1 to December 8, 2019**.

YOU are part of this story and we welcome you to join us at one or many of these events!



150th Birthday Celebrations

150th Birthday Celebration Kick-Off Wednesday, May 1, 2019

School day event for students, staff, SNJM and Grey Nuns

15th Annual

Marian Awards For Excellence Brunch Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

The Gates on Roblin, 6945 Roblin Boulevard
Honouring The Sisters of Charity of Montreal, "Grey Nuns"

Everyone Welcome | Tickets: \$75 each

Tickets on Sale in March *

150th Birthday Picnic

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Academy Grounds

Community celebration with food vendors

All SMA Community Members Welcome

150th Birthday Gala Dinner

Celebrating the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary
Friday, September 27, 2019 (Homecoming Weekend)

Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue

Everyone Welcome | Tickets: \$150 each

Tickets on Sale in March*

Homecoming

Saturday, September 28, 2019

Commemorative Years Brunch

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Tickets: \$30 each

For the Classes of 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969

1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2009

Come reminisce | 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tour the school, shop alumnae vendors, enjoy tea, dainties and visiting

Everyone Welcome

Commemorative Years Brunch tickets on sale in March *

150th Birthday Mass

Sunday, September 29, 2019

(Homecoming Weekend) | 1:00 p.m.

St. Boniface Cathedral-Basilica, 180 Avenue de la Cathedrale

Everyone Welcome

Come and See

Mother Marie-Rose Week

October 5 to 11, 2019

Celebrating our 150 years with students and staff from our SNJM

Network of Schools | School related events for students and staff

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass

Steeped in Tradition High Tea

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Mass at 2:00 p.m. | St. Mary's Cathedral, 353 St. Mary Avenue

High Tea from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Charism and Mission Office

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

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) Network of Schools was founded in the 1980s for support and networking among the administrations of our North American SNJM schools. Since then, as with many things, it has evolved to provide additional opportunities among our schools. For example, when our SNJM school in Portland (also named St. Mary's Academy) was celebrating its 150th in 2009, they invited all of the choirs from the Network of Schools to come to Portland for a massive concert. Then, the SNJM Congregational Justice and Peace committee launched the Youth Justice Forums. SMA Winnipeg was the first to pilot it in the summer of 2009. Teams from our Network of Schools (and beyond) gathered to learn about our SNJM commitments to justice through our corporate stands, ministries, and deepen

their understanding of our charism and mission. These Youth Justice Forums have continued every three years.

This October, as one of the events planned during our 150th Birthday at SMA, we have invited our 6 Sister SNJM Schools to "Come and See" Winnipeg during *Mother Marie-Rose Week (October 5th – 11th)*. Each school will be sending 3 students accompanied by a staff member. While they are here they will experience life at SMA by attending classes, explore our city and learning about our multicultural home. They will also spend time with our SNJM prayer pals, Alumnae and Board members. We will be asking for families to consider being a billet/host family to a student. More about this and formal volunteer opportunities will be arriving in your email in early May – stay tuned.

As we prepare our hearts and minds toward the season of Lent, we will focus on those who walk with us on the Journey. These stories and people, like those of Advent, point to the greater story of our faith; the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is within this great story of our faith that we find our SMA 150 story.

Please join us for our *Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word and distribution of ashes* on **Wednesday March 6th at 11:35 a.m. in Alumnae Hall.**

St. Mary's Academy 150th Birthday Prayer

God of all Generations,

We praise and thank you for the community of St. Mary's Academy. All that we have and all that we are has been inspired by your Holy Spirit and guided by Mary, our Patroness.

Since 1869, you have blessed us with passionate leaders and visionaries; devoted educators and students; loyal communities of family, faith, and friends.

You continue to call women to "Hold High the Torch" of Learning, Faith, Service, and Leadership, while reaching their fullest potential as created in Your image and likeness.

May we remain faithful to our foundation of education in the faith, with special concern for those most in need.

We trust that You will bless us with a future that is full of hope, abundant with possibilities, and rich in diversity.

We make this prayer in the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.
Amen

Composed by members of the St. Mary's Academy Community

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90) — jsteeves@smamb.ca

It is hard to believe we are half way through February already! Each week, as we get closer to *Celebrating our Legacy*, we're learning more and more about the amazing women who guided us through the last 149 years at SMA. As we continue to learn about our roots and our history each week during morning prayer, we are also looking for ways we can challenge ourselves to continue this legacy.

This month, four students took up this challenge and made it their mission to educate the student body about one of the three SNJM corporate stands: Human Trafficking. These four students had the privilege of attending the SNJM Youth Justice Forum last July in Oakland California, and since then they have been working towards creating the *SMA Human Trafficking Awareness Week*, which took place in the week of February 4th. They began the week by presenting a session to each classroom on what Human Trafficking is. The students were informed about both

forced labour and sexual exploitation of women and children. Following these sessions, students were then invited to make a statement and challenged to do one thing to take a stand against human trafficking.

We concluded our awareness week on the **International Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking** with our special guest speaker, former MP **Joy Smith, of the Joy Smith Foundation**. Smith is a leading advocate against human trafficking worldwide and is a champion of women's rights. She shared her experiences in the fight against human trafficking right here in Winnipeg and all across Canada. Her strong belief is that education is our greatest weapon in the fight against human trafficking.

For more information on Joy Smith's platform, we encourage you to visit her website:

www.joysmithfoundation.com



l-r: Joanne Steeves, Angela Lawrence, Ainslee Tolentino, Ashlynn Argo, Kyla Goulet-Kilgour, and Joy Smith



SMA Human Trafficking Awareness Week Team together with Joy Smith, and the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM)

Coming up in Campus Ministry

- **Shrove Tuesday**- Students are invited to join in a pancake lunch on **March 5th**

Tickets will be available for sale through their class Campus Ministry Rep and outside the Cafeteria **February 26th to March 1st**.

- **School wide Ash Wednesday service** at **11:40 on March 6th**

During Lent we will offer the following in Holy Names Chapel:

- **Wednesday Morning Prayer** at **8:00 a.m.**
- **Mass on Fridays** at 1:05 p.m. Families are welcome to attend.
- **Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be celebrated in **March** and **April** with our Grade 7 and 8 classes and a **"Come and Go" reconciliation service** for staff

Drama Department

Eliana Dell'Acqua '03 — edellacqua@smamb.ca

The Grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 Drama students are at it again! Our students are working tirelessly to delight audiences once more with their talents on the SMA stage for their final performance exams. Family and friends are welcome to come and watch!

Grade 9

On **March 14th 2019** our Grade 9 students will be performing **The Diary of Anne Frank**. With the students working around the clock, we guarantee an amazing rendition of this incredible story!
Show times TBA.

Grade 10

This year, audiences will be taken on a mysterious journey to find out “whodunit” with our Grade 10s. The students will keep audiences intrigued with two comical murder mystery plays: **Ax of Murder** and **No Body to Murder**. These cryptic comedy performances will be on **April 18th 2019**.
Show times TBA.

Even more exciting news in our Drama world: It is my pleasure to announce that one of our very own SMA drama students, **Nina Hutsulak**, has been chosen as a finalist in the **Scirocco Drama Manitoba High School Playwriting Contest!**
With the help of professional dramaturges

and directors, **Key to the Castle** will be performed at the **Tom Hendry Warehouse Theatre**. The SMA community is so very proud of Nina for becoming a published playwright! Awesome work, Nina!

Stay tuned for exciting announcements regarding our school-wide fall Drama Production for next year's big 150th celebrations and the announcement of the Grade 11/12 Drama final exam production – we hope to release this information soon!

Thank you for all of your continued support of our program!

“I Love to Read Month” Book Drive

Library Student Planning Team

February: What better month to celebrate our love of literature?

Recognizing our responsibility to uphold the values of SMA and the SNJM and to provide opportunities for others around the city, our students and staff have been hosting a **Book Drive** from **February 4 - 28** in the **Durocher Library**. Collection takes place in Durocher Library or drop your donation off at SMA's Reception Office. We hope to collect 1400 books for all age

ranges, which will then be given to reading and literacy programs around Winnipeg.

The grades will be competing against each other to bring in the most books and win the most spirit points. As well, to celebrate and recognize our favourite books during I Love to Read Month, the library has planned a series of super fun activities and challenges. These include a scavenger hunt around the school, survivor with our favourite book characters and, of course, the book drive.

Good luck to everyone on all the challenges and to the grades during the book drive. Let the book donating begin!

Generations Day

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

On **Thursday, April 25** we are once again excited to host the grandparents of all **“new” SMA students at Generations Day 2019!**

This is a great opportunity for our students to show their grandparents or other generational mentors around our campus and share their experiences as a student at SMA. Information and invitations will be distributed to all students new to SMA for the 2018-2019 school year.



Female World Sport School Challenge

SMA hosted our *7th annual Female World Sport School Challenge* at the Bell MTS Iceplex from January 31 to February 3.

This tournament featured 16 top level female hockey teams from across Canada and the United States, and included a banquet with Master of Ceremonies **Danielle Krzyszczyk '14** and Keynote

Speaker **Rod Black** of CTV and TSN.

Our **Flames Prep Team** won the Silver Medal, with a tough overtime loss of 2-1 to the **Lloydminster Steelers** in the final game. We're incredibly proud of our Prep Hockey Team's play this season and thank the many volunteers and sponsors who made this tournament possible.

Presenting Sponsor

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Track and Field

Mr. Demetro Danyluk — ddanyluk@smamb.ca

The Flames Track and Field has been training hard in afternoon and morning sessions since the middle of October. They have competed in a number of indoor meets at the University of Manitoba since the beginning of the New Year; great results and, even more importantly, great efforts have been shown by all who have participated! These indoor meets will continue on until spring break when the outdoor season will begin and we will start preparing for various spring and early summer meets. Although the track and field team has been training and competing already this year it is not too late to join; please see **Mr. Danyluk** or contact him at ddanyluk@smamb.ca if you would like to participate or if you would like more information! The team would love to have you.

Of special note, the following individuals from the senior team will be competing in the Manitoba Indoor Track and Field Championships: **Cadence Christie, Lily Francis, Alyssa Moon, Annika Falkenberg, Ibukun Okunnu, and Jasmine DeCaire**. Congratulations and good luck!

The Junior team also has been competing very well and training hard at morning and lunch hour practices. Each and every student has represented SMA proudly. Congratulations to the following students, who participated in an all-day track and field meet at the University of Manitoba in January: **Elle Wood, Jordyn Espenell, Adra Barnett, Isabella Lamont, Angelina Cerqueti, Sara Johnstone, Elaina Bru, Ashley Garland, Ikram Imam and Kelly Park**. Well done ladies!



From the Alumnae Office

Ms. Amy Houston '03
ahouston@smamb.ca

International Women's Day

Happy New Year to everyone! This month we are busy preparing for our upcoming **International Women's Day Career and Mentorship Day** on **Friday, March 8**.

Students will enjoy a talk with alumna **Kimberly Prost '76**, a **Judge of the International Criminal Court**. Following the assembly, Grade 10 students will spend the afternoon listening to a variety of alumnae career speakers share their career experiences and journeys.

Panel Interviews for Grades 11 and 12 Students

On **Thursday, April 4th**, we are excited to host our second annual **Panel Interviews** event. **Panel Interviews** aim to offer **Grades 11 and 12** students an authentic opportunity to develop career readiness skills, practice professional interview skills and receive practical and individualized advice. With these mock interviews conducted by our community mentors, we hope to foster a mentorship for our students leaving SMA and entering the professional world. Students will be able to experience the process of preparing and presenting a professional portfolio which includes a resume, a letter of reference, a piece that exhibits growth mindset, and a

small body of work that documents skills and experiences.

As panelists, community mentors will have the opportunity to impart wisdom and career expertise to our future graduates. Each interview includes a feedback and Q&A period for further discussion.

Last year, the panelists were overwhelmed by the amazing achievements of our students and the students felt the experience was valuable in their preparations for life after SMA.

Volunteers Needed

We hope to have 50 community mentors participate. If you would like to become a

panelist and career mentor, please contact **Ms. Amy Houston '03, Manager of Alumnae & Community Relations** at ahouston@smamb.ca or call 204-478-6030.

Student Participation

Students wishing to participate in the event can contact **Ms. Lindsey Fennell '07, Academic Advisor** at lfennell@smamb.ca or call 204-478-6039.

The deadline to confirm participation in Panel Interviews is March 12, 2019. Thank you in advance for your help in making this event possible!



Tickets
\$50

THE
Nellie Paßling
FOUNDATION
PROUDLY PRESENTS

In Conversation with Trailblazers

— Judge Kimberly Prost —

JUDGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
MODERATED BY SHANNON SAMPERT

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019
7:00PM - 9:00PM

St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent

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From the Parents' Guild

Mrs. Ramona Thomson, Parents' Guild President

As I'm sure you all know, January was a cold month; however, the Parent's Guild was able to meet and greet many eager and energetic students and families who attended the SMA Open House. Once again, we had a tremendous turnout and look forward to welcoming new students and their families.

The Parents' Guild, after hosting a very successful Christmas Party, was also able to donate \$350 to **Willow House**, a crisis center for women and children fleeing from domestic violence. This is in addition to our donation of 15 purses filled with essentials

to **Handbags for Hope** in **December**. We thank all parents who attended the party and helped make all these wonderful gifts possible!

The Parents' Guild was also thrilled as we **SOLD OUT Torch Talks** on **February 9** where we welcomed **Dr. Rayleen De Luca** to speak about issues facing adolescent girls, such as depression, anxiety, challenges with self-esteem, bullying, and issues arising from social media. Participants enjoyed a late morning discussion with a question and answer session!

On a closing note, the Parents' Guild is always looking for SMA community members to serve in many volunteer capacities. Please consider attending our meetings and donating your time and ideas to this wonderful group of dedicated parents. Stay warm, spring is just around the corner!

An Evening at the Academy

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

A huge thank you to all who helped make our fourth annual **An Evening at the Academy**, our gala dinner in support of the **Mother Marie Rose Bursary Fund**, a wonderful success!

We are grateful for the support of our sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers. This event will not be taking place in January 2020, as we will be celebrating our **SMA 150 Birthday Gala on Friday, September 27, 2019**. Tickets for the Gala will be on sale in late March at www.smamb.ca/about/150th-birthday.



Marian Awards For Excellence

15th Annual Marian Awards For Excellence Brunch

Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

The Gates on Roblin, 6945 Roblin Boulevard

Honouring The Sisters of Charity of Montreal, "Grey Nuns"

Everyone Welcome | Tickets: \$75 each

Tickets on Sale in March

Purchase tickets at

smamb.ca/about/150th-birthday

Open House

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

We are thrilled with the turnout for our annual **Open House**, held on **January 15, 2019**! This month we welcome new applicants to SMA, who will be writing their entrance exams and be interviewed by SMA staff.

Thank you to our staff and student volunteers for generously giving their time to facilitate our admissions process and making prospective families feel so welcome.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new group of young women to the SMA community in the fall!



SMA Corner Store

Mrs. Tammy Zach

Upcoming orders for the Online Store

The Online Store will be accepting orders later this month - look for more details in the Daily Bulletin and at your Corner Store. Order the size you need, in the colour you want and look for the option to personalize select items! **This will be the last order for the 2018/19 school year.**

Outgrown your uniform? Please consider donating your gently worn uniform (fall and summer items gladly accepted!) to the Corner Store. Garments can be dropped off at the Corner Store or Reception.

Volunteers needed! There are currently over 50 unfilled volunteer shifts remaining through June. We rely 100% on volunteers at lunch hours and evenings to open our doors. If you are able to help over weekday lunch hours or weekday evenings please sign up here: <http://signup.com/go/HEwYGr>



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February 2019

Around the Academy



An Evening at the Academy
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM)



An Evening at the Academy



An Evening at the Academy



Panel Interviews



Torch Talks



Torch Talks



Female World Sport School Challenge Banquet
with Keynote Speaker — Rod Black



Open House