

Newsletter

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends

NEWS

August 2015

President's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



Although summer is the time for students, teachers and many staff members to enjoy a well-deserved rest, many people remain at the school preparing the facility and many other areas for the upcoming

school year. Furthermore, some continued the school's mission to serve during the summer months in El Salvador and Longueuil. Others took time to enhance their knowledge and understanding about the SNJM charism and mission by attending a variety of opportunities offered throughout the summer or, attended leadership conferences or educational courses to further their commitment to leadership and teaching excellence. My hope is that everyone was able to enjoy the summer break in whichever way they chose to, and to return in September with a refreshed and deepened commitment to serving this wonderful community.

I encourage our parents to become familiar with the school website [www.stmarysacad-](http://www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca)

www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca where pertinent information to start the school year will be found, such as the school calendar, school supply list and parking application. The Parents' Guild welcomes parents to volunteer for the many and varied programs for which they are responsible; go to the SMA website and select the PARENT tab, then click on VOLUNTEERING to electronically submit your preferences.

I look forward to meeting all new parents at the **Welcome Breakfast** on Wednesday September 9 in the Sheila Chipman Atrium where you can enjoy coffee, meet staff members and other new parents. I look forward with much excitement to seeing all returning families and sincerely hope you had some quality time with family and friends during the break.

We welcome Ms. Jessica Dyck-Lyons ('99) back to our Resource Department following a maternity leave with her second son Samuel, and Mrs. Mary Morton (Evans '78) who will once again direct the Con Spiritu choir. A warm welcome to several new members to our faculty and staff: Mr. Noel Rautert and Mr. Roby Yeung will be teaching in the Science and Math departments, Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90) who has been hired as the Director of Campus Ministry and Miss Kelsey Jennings has been hired as a part-time Library Technician.

Every year, our school programs and activities are influenced by a guiding principle,

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one that Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher lived by through her daily example in service to her community. Our community is called to be a **People of Hospitality** for the upcoming school year. Hospitality is not limited to planning amazing social events! For Blessed Marie-Rose and our Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, hospitality is being a gracious, accepting and welcoming presence for each person (SNJM Core Value). Let us all be filled with this spirit of hospitality in every thing we do as we serve and learn in this grace-filled community.

Many blessings for a purposeful, successful and healthy school year!

Principal's Message

Mrs. Josie Audino



Welcome/Bienvenue. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer! A special welcome to all students, parents and staff who will be joining the St. Mary's Academy community for the first time!

Over the summer eighteen of our students and four of our staff travelled to Huisisilapa, El Salvador to be of service to the community. Thank you to all those, who volunteered their time to help the people of this Central American country. Three students and one Faculty member, took part in a one week SNJM Social Justice retreat in Longueuil, Quebec. I am certain that other students and staff continued to serve and do good work in the local community, whether in the city or at the lake. We are thankful that all of us are back safe and sound.

I am confident that this will be a very rewarding year, filled with many successes as we embrace being **People of Hospitality**. Our foundress Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, a strong leader rooted in faith, hope and love lived her life being hospitable and welcoming to all people.



August 2015



School Opening

New Students

New Student Orientation takes place on **Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

9:00 a.m. - All new students meet in Alumnae Hall.

9:15 a.m. - Students meet with their homeroom teachers until 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. - School Orientation Tours take place with SMA's "In the Navy" Ambassador Team.

11:00 a.m. - Dismissal
Note that uniforms are *not* required for Orientation morning.

All Students

Classes begin for all students on **Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 8:30 a.m., Day 1.**

Homeroom lists will be posted at school entrances and on classroom doors. Students are to proceed directly to their homeroom for 8:30 a.m. for opening exercises, locker

distribution, timetable and agenda distribution.

Full winter or summer uniform is required.

Bring school supplies.

The cafeteria will be open.

Opening Mass, Alumnae Hall at 2:00 p.m.

Welcome Breakfast for New Parents

SMA welcomes new parents!

While your daughter is participating in the New Student Orientation on September 9th, please join SMA administrators and faculty in the Sheila Chipman Atrium, commencing at 9:00 a.m. (enter through Alumnae Hall doors).

This is an opportunity to meet other parents and enjoy refreshments. Parking is available in Student Parking Lot B.

Important General Information

Administration

Mrs. Josie Audino is responsible for all activities and academic programs for students in Grades 11 and 12.

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie is responsible for all activities and academic programs for students in Grades 9 and 10.

Mrs. Michelle Klus is 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.

School-wide Retreat/Rally (Retrally), Reflection Days and Liturgies

These are important, mandatory community-building events for all students. Kindly become familiar with the school calendar and do not make any appointments on these dates.

Student Timetables, Student Agendas, Lockers and Locks

These will be distributed during the first homeroom period on Thursday, September 10, 2015. The agenda includes the school calendar, general school information, policies and procedures, and student information.

Textbooks

On the first day of classes, subject teachers issue numbered textbooks to each student. Each assigned textbook is the responsibility of the student to whom it is assigned. In June 2016, students are 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 25, 2016.

SMA Website: www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca

Check our website for the following information: 2015-2016 school calendar, school supply list, parking application, daily bulletin, newsletters, photos and current/relevant information and events.

August 2015

Coming Events

Opening Mass

Thursday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall. Parents welcome.

Grade 12 Reflection Day

Monday, September 14. 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. More details will follow.

Parent Information Evening

Wednesday, September 16 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall. Parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers, the Administration team and members of the Parents' Guild.

Grade 9 Welcome Day

Friday, September 18. Workshops and activities are 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 of school.

Grade 7 Camp

September 23-25. Camp information was emailed to parents of Grade 7 students. If you require further information, please contact Mrs. Klus at mklus@smamb.ca.

Mother Marie-Rose Week

September 30-October 6. Week dedicated to celebrating our Foundress and the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Walk for Cancer

Thursday, September 24. SMA students will participate in the annual *Walk for Cancer*. A \$10 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.

Service Learning Fair

Thursday, October 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All students from grades 7 to 12 will attend the *Service Learning Fair*. Service organizations from around Winnipeg will be present in the school, educating students about the mission of their organization and where service opportunities are available.

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)

Welcome to a new school year! As *People of Hospitality* the Campus Ministry team has been working through the summer, preparing to welcome our whole community in the best possible way for this coming year.

Plans are well underway for our **Grade 12 Day of Reflection**, "Home Is Where Our Story Begins" on September 14th. Grade 12 students, please be sure to complete the consent form and return it by September 11

to your homeroom teachers. We remind parents to join us at 6:30 p.m. at Camp Assiniboia for closing prayer.

Mother Marie-Rose Week (MMR) will take place September 30 - October 6. Mother Marie-Rose founded the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. During this week we highlight this Woman of Hospitality, who took great care in being present to those around her, both physically and spiritually. MMR week allows us to follow in her footsteps, learning how to be present to those around us; to use our

gifts to welcome and include others. One of the many activities planned is the Ret rally. Our guest speaker, Susan Searle, will focus on Leadership and Hospitality.

I would like to thank the SMA community for welcoming me so completely as I step into the Campus Ministry position for this year. I am excited to be working with such a wonderful group of people who truly embrace Campus Ministry and those we minister with. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Message from the SMA Parents' Guild

Mrs. Kristi Cumming (Stuart '89)

Hello SMA families! Hope you are all enjoying a fabulous summer! A few reminders from the Parents' Guild:

Volunteer Registration

New and returning parents, please complete your volunteer registration on line at: stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/parents/volunteering__parents_guild/

Upcoming events

September 14 at 7:30 p.m.: Parents' Guild Meeting & AGM in Durocher Library (all welcome)

September 16 at 7:00 p.m.: Parent Information Evening, including wine & cheese reception for new and returning parents.

September 24 at 7:00 p.m.: Grade 7 Parent Welcome Evening in the Sheila Chipman Atrium. Wine and appetizers served. Please RSVP to parentpartyrsvp@smamb.ca by September 10.

If you have any questions related to the SMA Parents' Guild, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at kristicumming@shaw.ca. On behalf of the Parents' Guild, we look forward to seeing you in September!

Bingo

One of the ways the SMA Parents' Guild raises money is by participating in bingos throughout the school year.

Facts

- \$16,000 to \$18,000 raised per year for SMA
- Money goes towards enhancing programming and activities for your daughter and capital funds (students desks & chairs, Smart Boards, outdoor benches).
- 20 bingos per school year are assigned to SMA
- 2 volunteers are needed for each bingo: parents, grandparents and friends welcome (18+)
- Each bingo is a 3 hour commitment
- Easy to volunteer: sign up online at stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/parents/volunteering__parents_guild/

August 2015

Project El Salvador

Ms. Stephanie Zirino ('07)

Project El Salvador 2015 was a great success! It was a privilege to witness and serve with the community of Huisisilapa, El Salvador this past summer. On June 30, 2015 the SMA team of 18 students and 3 staff members departed for an experience of a lifetime. Upon arriving in San Salvador, the group was welcomed with open arms at Casa Oasis. The staff went above and beyond to make our accommodations feel like a home away from home. The next day we were greeted by Roberto (our translator) and boarded the bus to our new community, Huisisilapa. This community is built upon the resilience and perseverance of its members. After facing exile in Guatemala for nearly a decade, many families were determined to return to El Salvador. Eventually they were able to purchase the land of Huisisilapa and rebuild their community.

Our group of students and staff quickly bonded with the people in the community. It was remarkable to see the smiling faces of the children and the dedication and spirit of the entire village. Over the course

of two weeks, our SMA students worked on a variety of projects. The team saw the completion of a sidewalk around the community building, sanding and repainting of all window guards, construction of a small room to be used for the radio station, painting of all the walls and a new roof. The girls were also able to present a scholarship in the amount of \$800 to local girls attending school. Over and above the many changes we saw, the team created friendships with the people of the community that will be deeply treasured.

Our time in El Salvador was also filled with moments of education and team bonding. The group was honored to witness Roberto's stories throughout our experience.

We learned the history of the civil war in El Salvador and saw the consequences of the years of tragedy and oppression. During our nightly reflections, many girls noted the importance of gratitude and social justice. Though we returned to Canada on July 14, the effects of our experience are far reaching.

We are deeply grateful to the community for welcoming us into their lives. The team would also like to extend our gratitude to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Mrs. Yunyk for joining us on our journey and all those who contributed to this amazing and life giving project. Overall, Project El Salvador 2015 was an incredible experience that touched the lives of all who were involved.



SNJM Youth Justice Forum

Mrs. Sylvia Falconer (Bator '01)

This July I was fortunate to accompany three students (grades 9 and 11) to the third SNJM Youth Justice Forum in Montreal. The forum is held every three years and is a gathering of students from the SNJM schools around the world (Portland, Seattle, Albany, Tampa Bay, Oakland, Alhambra, Lesotho and Winnipeg).

Preparation for the five day event began long before our departure to Montreal. Each school group was responsible for preparing several activities throughout the week, including a morning and evening prayer, presenting an example of a social justice activity from their school and a cultural activity showing each schools' home community.

The forum officially began on Thursday, July 16 with ice breaker activities and each of the next three days was dedicated to learning about and understanding issues which are important to the SNJM: **immigration and refugees, human trafficking and water issues.** Students from the various schools

presented on each topic, educating the other girls as well as invited guests about each issue. Morning and evening prayer concentrated on the same theme, dedicating the day to the issue at hand. These presentations were broken up by various service learning opportunities throughout the community. Additionally, the group toured the congregation and foundation houses of the SNJM sisters. We also had an opportunity to celebrate mass with the sisters.

The last day of the conference allowed time for students from each school to gather,

digest the information from the week and come up with ways to share the knowledge with their own school communities. Our SMA students are hoping to concentrate their efforts on advancing the education of girls in developing countries. We feel strongly that educating girls in developing countries can help local communities in a way that addresses all three aspects of the SNJM corporate stand.

Overall, the conference was a huge success with students and teacher leaders leaving inspired, passionate and educated about key issues important to the SNJM.



August 2015

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:

Grade 9
Sumathi Santiago
Grade 10
Kaitlyn Hanson
Grade 11
Melissa Coleman

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

Grade 9
Mackenzie Coleman & Claire Healey
Grade 10
Sélina Audino & Madison Maurice
Grade 11
Maia Idzikowski & Emma Reznichuk

Bob Ritchie Scholarship

The *Bob Ritchie Scholarship* is for Academic Achievement and Outstanding Involvement at SMA, as established by the Ritchie Family.

The award winner must be in Grade 11 and returning for Grade 12 in the fall, must be an honours student and must be involved in the school community.

Bob Ritchie Scholarship Recipient:
Emma Reznichuk

Corner Store

Hours of Operation

Open school days (except Tuesdays) from 12:30-1:30 p.m. starting September 14.

The Corner Store will be open during the Fall Uniform Sale on September 8 and 9.

The Corner Store sells a wide variety of SMA branded sportswear. Cash or cheques are the only form of payment accepted.

International Day

Celebrate the diversity and culture of the SMA community while enjoying a variety of ethnic food, live entertainment, a bake sale, a rainbow auction and an art auction.

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Mass in Alumnae Hall at 10:30 a.m.

Pavilions begin serving food at 11:30 a.m.

Private Music Lessons

If you are interested in private piano, music theory or beginner guitar lessons at St. Mary's Academy, please call Sister Josephine Chudzik at 204-284-3309.



2015 HOMECOMING



Saturday, September 26, 2015

Commemorative Years Reception: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sheila Chipman Atrium (enter through Alumnae Hall doors). For alumnae from the Classes of 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2005. Tickets are \$20 at the door. To reserve seating, please contact Amy Houston at ahouston@smamb.ca or call 204-478-6031 by September 24th, 2015.

SMA Alive Open House: 2:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m., free admission
Open to all alumnae, family and friends. Tea and dainties served.

Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting: 3:45 p.m., Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom

Mass: 4:00 p.m., Holy Names Chapel

TARTAN SHOP

Fall Uniform Sale

September 8 & 9, 2015
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Payment methods accepted are Cash or Cheques only.

Starting Friday, September 11, 2015 the Tartan Shop will be open on Fridays during the lunch hour.