



Newsletter

NEWS

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends

August 2017

President's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



Extending a heartfelt welcome to our SMA community as we are called to be a **People of Joy!** Over the summer, I have met and bumped into students, parents and staff; all looking forward with great excitement to the year ahead! I share in this excitement.

Although summer is a great time for repairs and maintenance work around the school, upgrading projects, meeting and planning for the upcoming school year, I must admit the energy and excitement in the hallways once our students and faculty return, signal the metaphorical turning of the page to a

new chapter – Chapter 2017-2018 at SMA!

Thanks to the efforts and coordination of David Morrison, Facility Manager, and his team, our school is ready for our students. New floors have been installed in the basement locker room B07, Sewing and Foods Labs and the Old Auditorium. Each year, a few classrooms and office spaces have hardwood floors refinished and rewaxed. The 1909 metal roof has been re-sealed and minor driveway repairs have also been done. Staff in our Communications Office as well as our Advancement Office have worked diligently all summer to check off their action items and are poised and ready for the new school year—thank you everyone!

We said farewell and celebrated several members of faculty and staff at the end of June—may the next chapter of your life be showered with God's choicest blessings! I am delighted to share with you that with the endorsement of the SNJM and the SMA Board of Directors, SMA has now formally adopted the new Administration Team Model. Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie will

be Junior School Principal (Grades 7 and 8) and Mrs. Michelle Klus will be Senior School Principal (Grades 9 to 12).

It is my pleasure to present all new faculty and staff joining us this year: Jill Boulet (School Office), Audrey Ross (Accounting Clerk), Jason Athayde (MAT leave – Math), Eliana Dell'Acqua (Drama, Geography), Lindsey Fennell (Academic Advisor), Tejal Friesen (MAT leave-Math, Science), Katie Friess (ELA, Social Studies), Robin Gacek (ELA, History), Giuliana Grande (Art, Social Studies), Alyssa Nabess (French, Français), Meghan Slater (Science, Math, Economics, Interactive Digital Media), Gina Unger (Home Economics, Family Studies), Anastasia Geras (Choral Music-Con Fuoco Choir).

Our Foundress Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher was a woman of vision, compassion, discernment, insight and courage. May we all be infused with these guiding values as we come together for another year of visioning with conviction in service and justice to our community, locally and globally.

Senior School Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Klus



Welcome all parents and students to the new school year. I am very excited and honored to be your Senior High Principal. I wish nothing but success for your daughters' educational goals.

This year we are called to be **People of Joy**. This is a theme that will permeate every facet of school life. Joy is a characteristic of God's people. Joy is a state of mind, an orientation of the heart and a feeling in

the soul brought forth by the Holy Spirit. Joy is the natural reaction to the work of God, whether promised or fulfilled. Joy expresses God's kingdom—His influence on earth (Romans 14:17).

It is my goal to work with the faculty, parents and students to create a rich learning environment. I believe that success is a shared responsibility; a joint venture between St. Mary's Academy and home. The foundation of a successful school is the cooperation between the students, faculty, parents and community. It is my hope that you will meet any challenges with determination and excitement and celebrate all that makes everyone special.

I encourage you to check the SMA website (www.smamb.ca), particularly the homepage and the calendar, for updates and a list of coming events. I sincerely look forward to working with you and developing a relationship that will assist in the growth of your daughter. The year promises to be filled with opportunities to both stretch us as well as promote growth.

Junior School Principal's Message

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie (van Es '80)



As summer begins to draw to a close, we look forward to an exciting time of year for all of us: a new school year. It's time to start something new and trust in the magic of beginnings.

As we are called to be a **People of Joy**, your daughter will be exposed to new ideas, new friends, and develop a better awareness of her own gifts and how to share them with others. I look forward to witnessing her joyous celebration of her accomplishments as she continues on her own personal journey with greater confidence and resilience.

Orientation Day for all new students will be the morning of Tuesday, September 6th, 2017. The girls will meet their new teachers, their classmates, get their locker assignments and receive all their information to take home and share with you. I strongly encourage you to take the time to read through the introduction in their student agenda planners. It contains all the pertinent information about the SMA community, ranging from uniform policies to attendance expectations and explains all our key routines and procedures.

I look forward to working with your daughter as she experiences her junior years as part of the St. Mary's Academy community. This school year promises to be filled with many blessings for us all! Welcome to all as we begin the new year together.



August 2017



School Opening

New Students

New Student Orientation takes place on **Wednesday, September 6**

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.

12:30 p.m. - Dismissal

Note that uniforms are *not* required for Orientation morning.

All Students

Classes begin for all students on **Thursday, September 7 at 8:30 a.m. Day 1 of the School Day cycle**

Homeroom lists will be posted in the cafeteria by 7:30 a.m. 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.

Strings Club

SMA's Strings Club dates and times are to be announced—check the Daily Bulletin once school is in session. All levels of musicians are welcome. There are usually 30 sessions in total throughout the year. The cost will be determined based on how many students are interested. For more information, contact Mrs. Michelle Klus at mklus@smamb.ca.

TARTAN SHOP

Fall Uniform Sale

September 5 & 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Cash, debit, visa and mastercard accepted (cheques not accepted).

Starting Friday, September 8 the Tartan Shop will be open on Fridays during the lunch hour.

High School Hockey Tryouts

Sept 11: 4:40 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.

Sept 13: 5:05 p.m. – 6:05 p.m.

Sept 18: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

All tryouts held at the Bell MTS Iceplex

Golf Tryouts

Tuesday September 12

For details see the Daily Bulletin once school is in session.

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.

Important General Information

Administration

Senior School Principal

Mrs. Michelle Klus is responsible for all activities and academic programs in Grades 9 to 12.

Junior School Principal

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie is responsible for all activities and academic programs for students in Grades 7 and 8.

Mandatory Assessments

Two major assessment periods take place during the school year 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 7. The agenda includes the school calendar, general school information, policies and procedures, and student information. Please take time to read through the front section of the agenda to familiarize yourself with SMA policies and procedures.

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 2018, 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.

SMA Website: www.smamb.ca

Check our website for the following information: school calendar (downloadable to smartphones), school supply list, parking application, daily bulletin, newsletters, photos and current/relevant information and events.

Weekly Communiqué

SMA emails out a Communiqué to parents every Friday during the school-year. Important information is in this communication, be sure to check your email. If you do not receive the Communiqué, contact Ms. Judy Ashcroft at jashcroft@smamb.ca or 204-478-6048 to get your email address on our list.

August 2017

Important Dates

Mass of the Holy Spirit
Friday, September 8
2:00 p.m.
Alumnae Hall
Parents welcome

Parent Information Afternoon
Friday, September 8
3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Cafeteria

Join us to mix-and-mingle with our community and informally meet your daughter's teachers. Parents of new students will formally meet at 4:00 p.m. with Grades 7/8 in Alumnae Hall, and Grade 9 in Durocher Library. Refreshments and light snacks provided. We look forward to meeting you!

Picture Day
Tuesday, September 12

Grade 12 Reflection Day
Wednesday, September 13
This is a regularly scheduled school day at an off-site location and attendance is mandatory. The day will end at approx. 7:30 p.m. with closing prayer. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to attend.

Grade 9 Welcome Day
Friday, September 15
1:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Workshops and activities are planned to facilitate the transition for all Grade 9 students. All students are strongly recommended to remain until the end of the event. More details to follow.

Grade 7 Camp
September 20-22. Camp information was emailed to parents of Grade 7 students. If you require further information, contact Mrs. Swayzie at caswayzie@smamb.ca.

New Parent Mix and Mingle
Thursday, September 21
7:00 p.m.
Sheila Chipman Atrium
New parents will have an opportunity to gather together and participate in conversations regarding your daughters' transition to the SMA community. RSVP to parentpartyrsvp@stmarysacademy.mb.ca by September 10.

Walk for Cancer
Thursday, September 21. 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. More details to follow.

Head Girl Speeches and Election
September 26-29
Interested candidates from our Student Leadership team will be speaking to our student body in preparation for election day on September 29.

Mother Marie-Rose Week
October 1-October 7. Week dedicated to celebrating the Foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Service Learning Fair
Thursday, October 19
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.

Student Parking

Parking applications are available from the homepage of our website (smamb.ca) and will be accepted in the Accounting Office from August 21 at 10:40 a.m. until Friday, September 8. Only students who hold a Class 5-I or higher driver license will be considered for a parking spot. If a student has a Class 5-L driver license and will be taking her test in September, she may apply but will be placed on a waiting list, and issued a spot once they have obtained a Class 5-I driver license (if spots are still available).

Applications must contain complete information. Payment of \$150.00 and a copy of students driver license must be included with the application. If your application is not accepted, payment will be returned.

Passes will be issued Tuesday, September 12 at 12:35 p.m. Until that time, if you have applied for a pass you may park in the student lot on a scramble parking basis. If no spots are available, do not park anywhere else on the school grounds; you must park

on a public street. If you will not be applying for a parking space, you are not allowed to park on school grounds.

For further information, please contact Brenda Van Raes at 204-478-6072 or bvanraes@smamb.ca.

August 2017

Charism and Mission Office

Sr. Michelle Garlinski '88, SNJM

As we begin this year as *People of Joy* the words of the Protestant theologian Karl Barth, "Joy is the simplest form of gratitude" seem evident when we reflect on the summer blessings and the year before us. How often we have heard the wise African tribal words, "it takes a village" and how true it is for the Charism and Mission Office. The mission belongs to the whole community—students, staff, parents, Board members and alumnae. This Charism

(gift) we have been given through our SNJM heritage is animated, developed and facilitated through the encouragement and support of the Charism and Mission Office—the success of mission integration will rest with the community. This year we will work more closely with the entire community to deepen this gift we treasure. We will continue to learn more about our SNJM story in the classroom, boardrooms and through *Encountering Our Story* trips

to Longueuil, QC. We will live our mission more passionately through sharing faith and encouraging the development of the whole person. We will love as Jesus taught us by welcoming new members into the SMA community and serving those most in need. May the inspirational words of a former SNJM Superior General Mere Philippe-de-la-Croix, lead our way "Let us look hopefully to toward the future living each day for God in joy, collaboration and friendship".

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)

It is wonderful to be back for a new school year and I hope that all of you had a restful and joy filled summer. Campus Ministry has been busy gathering in small groups throughout the summer to prepare for the many activities happening this fall. Groups have been hard at work on the school banner, the Day of Reflection, Service Fair and much more in preparation for our 2017-2018 year as *People of Joy*. Some of the many activities coming up are as follows:

Grade 12 Reflection Day

Grade 12 Reflection Day takes place on Wednesday, September 13. Grade 12

students, please be sure to complete the consent form and return it by September 11 to your homeroom teachers. Parents are reminded to join us at 6:15 p.m. at Camp Assiniboia for closing prayer and the blessing of our Grade 12 students.

Mother Marie-Rose Week

During *Mother Marie-Rose Week (October 2 to 5)* we celebrate and honour Mother Marie-Rose Durocher, the foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

Wednesday Morning Prayer begins on October 18 at 8:00 a.m. and takes place each Wednesday. Parents and families are

welcome to join us in Holy Names Chapel (2nd floor of the Administration Building).

Service Fair

Our annual *Service Fair* takes place on Thursday, October 19. This Fair gives students an opportunity to talk to representatives from various organizations, and learn about the many service opportunities available to them.

Harvest Thursday

Each Thursday from October 26 to May long weekend, a group of students accompanied by a teacher, lend-a-hand serving groceries to people at the Unitarian Universalist Church (a Winnipeg Harvest satellite distribution location).

Project El Salvador

Mr. James Villa

On June 27 a group of 17 students, Ms. Maria Martino and myself left for our mission trip to El Salvador. We were joined later in the week by Mrs. Yunyk and our graduating student Selina Audio '17.

For the third year we returned to the community of Huisiilapa to a very warm welcome. There was a ceremony in which the students from the community performed traditional dances and music. They have been working very hard to expand teaching and learning in the arts.

Our project was to start construction of a perimeter wall around the school property, in addition to adding a safety railing to the school yard area. The wall gives students greater safety and security from both the elements and any other threats, such as wild animals. It also provides greater security for the school and its equipment. This is the

first part of the wall that will be a multi-year project due to its vast size and cost. For several days we worked at preparing the site. We had to dig down 1.5 meters for the foundation of the wall, which was a challenge with all the roots and large stones. There was a lot of excitement and relief when we finally stopped digging down and started to build up. SMA students worked with rebar, mixing cement with shovels, setting cinder blocks, and adding the cement to the wall. The mason said he would hire any of them!

Each day we would take time to interact with members of the community in some way other than just work. We visited several classrooms and shared with each other some of the details of our lives. We also played games with the children. We brought floor hockey equipment for the school and after teaching them the basics the children were hooked and asked to play every day.

On our off days we went to Mass at the

Cathedral, visited Bishop Romero's home, toured the national memorial at Cuscatlan Park, the central University and the volcano park. We also spent the day hiking at El Rey National Park Preserve where there are several guerilla encampments. Hearing the history of the country and its people was especially moving for our students.

Each evening after a delicious meal we would come together and reflect on the day. Students commented on a wide variety of topics and how these experiences were changing their perspective on things in their own life. While there were times that some of the things that were viewed may have been upsetting, it served a purpose in helping students to grow.

Many thanks to the staff, administration, SNJM, families and everyone in our community who supported the project. The experience that the students receive on this trip is one that can not be replicated in the classroom, and it would not be possible without your support.

August 2017

Message from the SMA Parents' Guild

Mrs. Kelly Moon, President, SMA Parents' Guild

Hello SMA families! I hope you are enjoying the last days of summer. I am the incoming Parents' Guild President for a term of one year. Previous to this year I was the Vice President and previous to that, the Secretary. I look forward to engaging with the parent community at SMA and I encourage you to contact me if you have questions related to the Guild, skmoon@shaw.ca.

Parents' Guild Meeting and AGM
September 12 at 7:00 p.m.
Durocher Library
All welcome

New Parent Mix and Mingle
September 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Parents and guardians of all new students are invited to attend a fun evening at the school where you can meet other new parents and become familiar with your daughters new school. RSVP to parentpartysvp@stmarysacademy.mb.ca by September 10.

My Choice

The FUTURE depends on what I do in the PRESENT - Ghandi

Every day we all make choices, a lot of choices. We make choices that will affect our day, choices that will affect our week and choices that will affect our future. All choices have impact. They have great potential to positively affect ourselves, our families, our friends, our co-workers, etc. The SMA Parents' Guild needs you to make a choice today that, if you let it, will make a lasting impact in your life, in the lives of the staff and ultimately in the life of your daughter at SMA.

Every year the Parents' Guild Executive receives a wish list from the President. This year one of the items on the list is a 3D

printer for the Science Department. The funds we raise can make this happen when we ALL carve out some time to volunteer. It's easy! Use the links in the next column: To volunteer for day or evening shifts in the Corner Store or the Tartan Shop use the direct links, for other volunteer possibilities like International Day (Nov. 5) or Hospitality choose the Master List link and a committee member will be in touch to get you signed up based on your area of interest and availability. The following links are also available on the SMA website:
www.smamb.ca/parents/volunteering

Corner Store

<http://signup.com/go/HEwYGr>

Tartan Shop

September 5 in the evening

[Http://signup.com/go/EhLsFDr](http://signup.com/go/EhLsFDr)

September 6 in the evening

[Http://signup.com/go/GeUrnme](http://signup.com/go/GeUrnme)

Friday's at lunch time

[Http://signup.com/go/RhSRcXz](http://signup.com/go/RhSRcXz)

Master List

<http://signup.com/go/csBMVek>

Alumnae Office

Mrs. Kerri Moore (McIvor '94)

Join us for **Homecoming 2017** on Saturday, September 30, beginning with Mass at noon. The school will be open for touring from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. with tea being served in the Sr. Susan Wikeem Boardroom.

We welcome the reunion Classes of 2007, 1997, 1992, 1987, 1982, 1977, 1967, 1957, 1947 and 1937 for their commemorative years' celebrations. The **Commemorative Years Breakfast** begins at 10:00 a.m. in the SMA Cafeteria. Tickets are \$25.00 and are available in advance through the Alumnae Relations Office at 204-478-6031 or email kmoore@smamb.ca. Other information on class reunions is available on our website at www.smamb.ca.

St. Mary's Academy is pleased to announce our first-ever alumnae business networking event, **Celebrating SMA Alumnae in**

Business on Thursday, October 26, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Sheila Chipman Atrium. Professional alumnae can engage over wine and hors d'oeuvres, and will be treated to insight from Susie Erjavec-Parker '92 on her entrepreneurial success, as well as practical advice in the area of social media and digital marketing.

We're excited to announce the first ever **Academy Closet Pop-Up Shop** on Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Sheila Chipman Atrium. Enjoy an afternoon of vintage clothes shopping, visiting and refreshments! Donations of gently used clothing for women are being accepted at the Wellington Crescent entrance of the Academy during regular school hours. All proceeds of the sale benefit the Mother Marie-Rose Bursary Fund.

Advancement Office

Georgine Van de Mosselaer '83

Mark your calendar! Tickets for the 3rd annual **An Evening at the Academy—Lighting Our Legacy** go on sale on Monday, October 2, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. and can be purchased on our website at www.smamb.ca. The event has sold out quickly in the past, so do not delay in getting one of the 300 seats at the largest SMA fundraiser of the year in support of the Mother Marie-Rose Bursary fund. The event is a progressive dining experience throughout the Academy, with appetizers in our historic 1902 building, dinner in a beautifully decorated cafeteria and music and dancing in the Sheila Chipman Atrium. See you there!

August 2017

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
Caitlin Marques
Grade 10
Clare Hibbert
Grade 11
Claire Healey

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

Grade 9
Angela Lawrence and Ashley Smalley
Grade 10
Amy Adamkowicz and Bethany Kolisniak
Grade 11
Gillian Besko and Danielle Sneesby

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:

Cameron Armstrong



Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, December 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets available this fall from www.smamb.ca



Come check out our new merchandise items for Fall 2017! We will be open during the Uniform Sales on September 5 and 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Visa will be accepted during the evening sales. Cash and cheques only are accepted during the lunch hour sales at this time.

Regular Hours of Operation
Open school days from 12:30-1:30 p.m. starting Monday, September 11, 2017

International Day

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

Sunday, November 5, 2017

Mass in Alumnae Hall at 10:30 a.m.
Pavilions begin serving food at 11:30 a.m.

2017 HOMECOMING



2017 Homecoming: Saturday, September 30, 2017

Commemorative Years Breakfast Reception

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | SMA Cafeteria | \$25 per ticket
For alumnae from the Classes of 2007, 1997, 1992, 1987, 1982, 1977, 1967, 1957, 1947, 1937
To reserve seating, contact Kerri Moore at kmoore@smamb.ca or 204-478-6031 before September 22rd.

Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting: 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Alumnae Hall
Mass: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Alumnae Hall

SMA Alive and Tea: 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tour the school and have tea in the Sister Susan Wikeem Boardroom.
Alumnae, friends and families welcome.

SMA Cash Lottery

For many years the Parents' Guild organized a Raffle that raised a significant amount of funds which have been used to benefit students. It was traditionally called the International Day Lottery as the draw was made at the end of International Day. This year we will still be having our Raffle but the distribution of raffle tickets to students will occur during the first week of November, with the draw to be held during the Advent to Christmas Service on Friday December 22. Stay tuned for more details!