

# Newsletter

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends

# NEWS

December 2014

## President's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



This is the time in our liturgical calendar when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to reflect on the true meaning of our relationship with God and with others. This year our Campus Ministry team encourages us to acknowledge and celebrate TAGS (Talents, Abilities, Gifts, Skills) in ourselves and in others. In the true spirit of the season, staff and students reflect on how we prepare the way of the Lord by using our TAGS in the service of others. Making gift bags coordinated by our Mission Club and home-made cookies by our Leadership Council members and distributing them at the Immaculate Conception Drop-In on Sunday, December 14th serves as an example of how our community embraces the Advent spirit.

Speaking of TAGS, a heartfelt and sincere thank you to Scott Greenlay, Chair of SMA

Inc Board of Directors and Susanne Parent, Chair of SMA Foundation Inc Board of Directors and all our board members for dedicating their valuable time, expertise and leadership in this transition year. I appreciate your guidance, professionalism and commitment to our school's mission and vision. God bless you!

Congratulations to the Parents' Guild and Convener Kathy Degan for another successful International Day. It takes many volunteers working weeks in advance to put on the day and I applaud the many successful improvements of this year's event!

Finally, our SMA community is saying goodbye to Mrs. Diane McGowan, who will be retiring December 31, 2014, after 10 years of loyal service as our Director of Development. Diane has been instrumental over the years in her tireless and successful pursuit of raising funds for our two Capital Campaigns for facility expansion. Thank you Diane and happy retirement; enjoy the hot sun in Arizona!

One door closes and another one opens. Our community is blessed to have Ms. Georgine Gaudes (Van de Mosselaer '83) join our team as Director of Advancement & Alumnae Affairs effective December 16, 2014. Georgine is no stranger to SMA,

### In this issue

President's Message	1
Principal's Message	1
Campus Ministry	2
Gift of Music	2
Drama	2
Debate	2
Grade 7 Camp	3
Mission Club	3
From the Career Counsellor	4
Prep Hockey Update	4
Volleyball	5
Charitable Donations	5
From the Accounting Office	5
Dates to Note	5
Around the Academy - photos	6

graduating in 1983 then moving on to the U of M where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1988. She has a rich and varied professional background and work experience. Georgine is a proud mom to three children and a dedicated alumna who continues to enjoy her friendships and the SMA community.

I wish to extend peaceful and joy-filled blessings to our SMA community during this Advent season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Principal's Message

Mrs. Josie Audino



December! It is amazing how time is flying by! We must be having fun! It is the liturgical season of Advent. It is a time of hope, love and joy. All our students attended an Advent service where we were witness to an interview with Jesus. Our

students are getting ready for Christmas by participating in a number of activities that hopefully will make life easier for others. It was great to see so many of you during Parent-Teacher Conferences. I heard so many positive comments and enjoyed the discussions about educational issues and best practices.

Thank you to all of you who came to see our musical production, Shrek. All of us were reminded of a very important message: true beauty is not about how we look, but about what is inside. A lot of hard work

went into producing a production of this magnitude and we are very appreciative and grateful to all the students, staff and community members who worked tirelessly to showcase our gifts and talents. Thank you for all the positive comments!

The students have just written Mid-Year Assessments and soon will be able to enjoy a well-deserved rest. Thank you for encouraging and supporting your daughters.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!



December 2014

## Campus Ministry

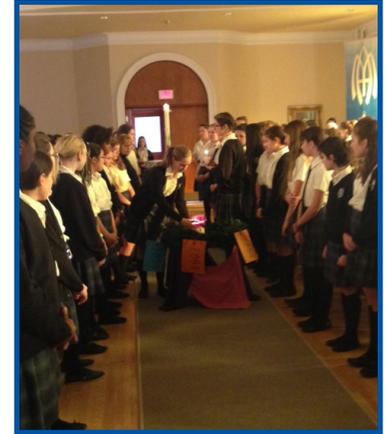
Ms. Michelle Garlinski

Happy NewYear! Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and we are grateful for the opportunity to gather and "ring in" the new year at our services. The theme for this Advent - *T.A.G. You're It* has proven to be a challenge we are rising to as a community of faith. We are asked to share our Talents, Abilities and Gifts - because we are the hands of Christ in the world. If people are going to know about the Birth of Jesus we need to be witness' in how we share what God has blessed us with as People of Service.

We have gone to Villa Rosa to wrap gifts, been Angels for Misericordia Foundation, made cards for the residents at Despina, prayed together in Chapel at Taize prayer, remembered our SNJM prayer pals, baked cookies, collected gift bags from the heart, continued to serve at Harvest Thursday, remembered National Violence Against Women day, and soon we are bringing the gift of music to the residents at Convalescent Home and Despina...and the list goes on in THOUSANDS of small, daily ways each person shares her TAGS.

May the God of peace who through the YES of Mary, sent his Son Into our broken world 2000 years ago, bring Love to you

and your family this Holy Season. Merry Christmas!



## Gift of Music

Ms. Michelle Garlinski

SMA's two choirs, Con Spiritu and Con Fuoco, bring the *Gift of Music* to the residents of the Convalescent Home of Winnipeg and to the SNJM Sisters and friends at Residence Despina.

**Wednesday, Dec 17, 2014**

12:00 p.m. - Convalescent Home

1:45 - Residence Despina

*Parents are welcome to join us at Residence Despina* (151 Despina Street).

## Drama

Ms. Laura Davey

On November 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th, our beloved Alumnae Hall was transformed into a swamp, complete with floor to ceiling banner trees and foliage spanning the stage, to host our production of Shrek the Musical. This beloved tale followed Shrek, Donkey & Fiona as they journeyed together in discovering the definition of true beauty. Playing to three full houses, our school production boasted over 170 students, teachers, parents and community members who were involved in some way, be it building and painting sets, props, public relations, costuming,

ushering, acting, choreographing, hair and makeup, sound and lighting, student directing, stage managing or being part of our stage crew.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped to make this exciting production happen. We had a fun filled, busy three months that paid off warming the hearts of some cold Winnipeggers at the end of November. Thank you to the SMA community for your loving and continued support of our arts program. Bravo to the cast and crew for letting your "freak flags wave" and telling this important story that supports diversity in our world. See you next year!

Photos from Shrek can be found at [www.smaphotos.ca](http://www.smaphotos.ca)

## Debate

Mr. Jordan Burg

On December 3, 2014 SMA debaters competed in the Douglas Campbell Speech Competition. Congratulations go out to SMA grade 8 student Emma Callbeck who took first place overall in the competition. Emma's win earned her a spot on the Provincial Team where she and teammates will compete at the National Junior High Public Speaking Championships in Vancouver, BC in May 2015.

Congratulations also go out to the following SMA students:

**Daniella Davies** who came in sixth in the Reading Category.

**Isha Khandewahl** who came in first in the Impromptu Category.

**Delaney O'Hara** who came in third in the Impromptu Category.

Way to Hold High The Torch girls!



Emma Callbeck

December 2014

## Gr. 7 Camp

Ms. Dawn Bohonos

*"My first impression of Camp Arnes? ... This place is awesome!" (grade 7 camper)*

The air was crisp but the sun shone brightly as seventy-seven excited grade seven girls arrived at Camp Arnes on October 20th for three glorious days of adventure and camaraderie.

Campers participated in outdoor and indoor activities, making new friends and enjoying the charm of the beautiful lake and the surrounding woods. Some of the activities were intimidating at first. Climbing up over 40 feet, jumping off a platform and zipping along a wire until reaching the bottom is not exactly an everyday event. Either is swinging from a rope, balancing on wooden beams or free falling from 30 feet in the air. Maneuvering up a 32 ft. wall and reaching for a little bell while suspended in air can also test the nerves. But with the excellent instruction from the skilled camp staff and the encouragement from each

other, campers conquered their fears and thrilled each other with their daring feats and accomplishments.

Other activities taught important lessons. Initiative tasks revealed the importance of teamwork and the need for leaders and cooperative followers. Fire and bannock educated campers on how to make a fire and how to safely maintain the flames. The campus ministry activity connected the campers' faith to life. Girls reflected on how they could rely, lean or call on God throughout their lives. They also thought about the road that they wanted to be on, the choices they needed to make to stay on track and the people in their lives who will help them stay the course.

Each day campers prayed together and reflected on their camp experience. As people of service, campers respected their instructors and their surroundings, worked together to clean their cabins and meal tables and showed genuine caring and support for each other. The seeds of lifelong friendships were planted.

*"The experience I will always remember about our camp trip is - the friends I've made - the fun that I had helping, laughing and being myself!" (grade 7 camper)*



## Mission Club

Ms. Teresa Uruski



### Gift Bags from the Heart

Every Sunday at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall for the past number of years, volunteers including students have been serving a hot meal to over 300 people who come from the Inner City. For many of these people this is not only an opportunity to have a wholesome meal but a time to enjoy a sense of community that has formed at the Drop-In. Each week, a different church or organization brings food to the hall and volunteers assist as servers.

Many St Mary's Academy students have become part of this honour of assisting those less fortunate in our community by not only volunteering at the Drop-In but

by participating in the annual time of gift giving.

This year students and staff were invited to help those who struggle with very little. Each homeroom class was asked to prepare gift bags for a specific gender and age. Students from the Mission Club volunteered to distribute the gift bags on Sun, Dec 14th.

Gift Bags from the Heart has become a way for students and staff to embrace and spread the Christmas Spirit of sharing. It is truly a tangible way to be part of community by helping others in need through an offering of useful gifts. This is what Christmas is really about - giving a gift from the HEART.

### Mission Club Monthly Organization Focus

During the month of October and November students at SMA participated in Colour Day which helped raised funds for Rossbrook House and Villa Rosa. Gr. 10 and Gr. 11 students also organized major

fundraising activities for programs offered by these organizations.

In January, our Colour Day will raise money which will be donated to The House of Peace. The House of Peace is run by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and is located in the heart of Winnipeg. It offers a unique living space that assists women in transition along with providing a space for various organizations that build peoples' strengths.

In February, the Gr. 8 and Gr. 12 Mission Reps will plan activities that will assist us in focusing our efforts to raise funds to support our sister SNJM schools in Lesotho, Africa.

If you would like to make a donation to any of these organizations - please contact Ms. Uruski at [turuski@stmarysacademy.mb.ca](mailto:turuski@stmarysacademy.mb.ca)

December 2014

## From the Career Counsellor

Ms. Teresa Uruski

### 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 5th. 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. This day was created through the philosophy that awareness leads to knowledge. The more students understand about the job of their parents, relatives or other adults, the more informed the decisions about their own future career will be. 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 last classes in January.

### PSAT – offered again at SMA

On Wed, Oct 15, 2014, grade 11 students who registered in Grade 10 had an opportunity to write the PSAT. The PSAT is a standardized test administered by the College Board in the United States and for a second year – St. Mary's Academy has been granted the ability to offer this test to our students. The benefits of taking the PSAT is to get in some practice before a student writes the SAT in May/June of her Gr. 11 year or October/November of her Gr. 12

year, as Universities in the USA require an assessment score as a integral part of their application process. Students currently in Gr. 10 will have an opportunity in late May 2015 to register for the PSAT with Ms Uruski if they have plans to apply or attend a University in the USA.

### Post-Secondary Planning

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

#### Note the following deadlines:

**January 15** – (Grade 12 ONLY) U of M Faculty of Music admission application deadline; recommended date to apply to all universities in Ontario via the 'Ontario Universities Application Centre' (OUAC)

**March 1** - (Grade 12 ONLY) U of M Early Admission Deadline for automatic Entrance Scholarship consideration based on February Gr. 12 marks

**March 1** - (Grade 12 ONLY) U of W Early Admission Deadline for automatic Special Entrance Scholarship consideration based on final June Gr. 12 marks

### Online Application Workshops

Ms. Uruski will be offering a 2nd round of 'Online Application Workshops' during the last week in January – signup required.

### Planning For Your Future

During January Grade 11 students will be attending an information session presented by Ms. Uruski which provides an overview of Post Secondary options. Representatives from the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg will be at SMA in January and February to meet with students to present program, admission and scholarship information. In March students will be attending 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 19th. **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 the programs offered at many universities across the country. The students will also receive information about the advantages of becoming an affiliate of St. Paul's College at the U of M. Watch for parent/guardian permission forms and more information to come home in late January. Students will have the option to attend the Open House at the University of Winnipeg Feb 18th from 4-8 p.m. and at Red River College on February 17th from 5-8 p.m.

## Prep Hockey

Mr. Dave Chell

The St. Mary's Prep Hockey team has had a great start 2014-15 season. In Stoney Creek (Hamilton) the second week of September we were moved up to the U19 Division after coming in second out of 64 teams in U17 the previous year. We did well, with a 3-1-2 record as Yellow Division champs. Our next tournament was in Morden where our Flames took part in the 3rd annual Pembina Valley Thanksgiving Classic from October 10-12. The Flames finished with an impressive 5-0 win in Sunday's final game over the Lloydminster PWM Steelers.

In October the Flames participated in the 2nd Annual Female Hockey Fights Cancer game in Selkirk vs the Winnipeg Avros. The game proved to be exciting however, was far and away overshadowed by the fact that a whopping \$18,000 was raised and given in one massive cheque to Cancer Care Manitoba.

The weekend of October 24-26 saw the Prep team win the U19 2014 Detroit Two Nations College Series Cup in only our second year in that tournament. The Flames Prep team went on to a thrilling 2-0 team victory defeating one of the top teams in North America, Shattuck-St. Mary's U19 out of Faribault, MN.

Two weeks later the Prep team competed in Faribault, MN for the Shattuck-St. Mary's Jamboree. The Flames enjoyed another solid weekend, with three straight victories over Shattuck's U16 team, Minnesota Revolution and the Thunder Bay Queens.

The team closes out the 2014 part of its season with several local games, including a December 17 outdoor game at Red River College (299 Murray Ave.) vs archrival Shaftesbury Titans celebrating Hockey Manitoba's 100th Anniversary in a big way. Please check the SMA Flames Prep team website for complete details. A warm and cozy crowd is definitely expected!

**Come cheer on our Flames on December 17 in an outdoor game at Red River College vs archrival Shaftesbury Titans**

December 2014

## Volleyball

Mrs. Jen O'Leary

8 teams, 80 athletes, 3 teachers and 12 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 26, 2014 SMA's Volleyball season came 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:

— 42 Grade 7-12 students participated in Mike Burchuk's (former Canadian Women's National Team coach) St. Mary's Volleyball Academy.

— 60 Grade 7 athletes participated in 3 developmental, friendly tournaments within the Pembina Trails School Division with High School Students as mentors, role models and coaches.

— The Grade 7 Traveling team participated in the Grade 8 Diggers league and finished in 2nd place losing a close match to Van Walleghem.

— The Grade 8 Team won the Silver Medal in the Pembina Trails Athletic Association coached by SMA teacher Lorne Hess.

— The Grade 9 Team lost a tough semi-final league match against HGI to finish in the top 4 of the Pembina Trails Athletic Association.

— The Junior Varsity Team won the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship and then went on to make SMA history by winning the 2014 MHSAA "AAAA" Junior Varsity Provincial Championship at University of Winnipeg Duckworth Center. Congratulations to Taylor Boughton and Jenna Cross who were chosen as Provincial Tournament All-Stars and to Julia Tays who was the tournament MVP.

— The Varsity Team clinched the banner in the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Championships playing a tough match against Vincent Massey Winnipeg. Congratulations to Darby Coughlin and Janelle Lawrence who were WWAC All-Stars and

to Brianna Patrick who was the Tournament MVP. The team then went on to participate in the AAAA MHSAA Provincial Championships and made it to the round of Final Four. They played an amazing Semi-Final match versus #1 ranked team MBCI. A huge Congratulations to Grade 12 student Brett Whitla as she was chosen by Volleyball Manitoba as a Graduating All-Star.

"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. A very large and overwhelming amount of time, effort, commitment and dedication was devoted to the 2014 Volleyball program and the Athletic Department would like to thank everyone who supported the athlete's and coaches in their quest for success. **Thank you for your continued support!**

Stay tuned for more volleyball action next year. For more information please contact Mrs. Jen O'Leary at [joleary@stmarysacademy.mb.ca](mailto:joleary@stmarysacademy.mb.ca).

## Charitable Donations

If you are considering a year-end gift to St. Mary's Academy please note that in order to receive a 2014 tax receipt please ensure your gift is received by St. Mary's Academy **on or before December 31, 2014**. Call the Advancement Office at 204-478-6030.

If your donation is made by cheque, it should be dated for 2014. Thank you for

### Reception Holiday Hours

Monday December 22 to Wednesday, December 24 - open 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Closed as of Thursday, December 25, 2014. Reopening on Monday, January 5, 2015

## from the Accounting Office



**Charitable donation receipts** for the 2013-2014 school year, for inclusion with your 2014 tax return, will be mailed in February. Receipts for the 2014-2015 school year, for inclusion with your 2015 tax return, will be issued in February 2016.

### Tuition

For those families who chose Plan B, please remember that your final payment will be withdrawn from your account January 2, 2015.

### Accounting Office Holiday Hours

The accounting office will be closed December 20, 2014 to January 2, 2015 with the exception of December 29 and December 30.

### Dates To Note

#### December 2014

- 17 Prayer in the Chapel at 8 a.m.
- 17 Choirs at Résidence Despina - 1:45 p.m.
- 17 Christmas Café - 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Christmas Service in Alumnae Hall at 11:35 a.m. Dismissal at 12:35 p.m.

#### January 2015

- 5 Classes Resume
- 6-9 Gr. 12 Provincial English Exam
- 8-13 Individual Grad Photos
- 13 2.30 p.m. dismissal (Faculty Mtg)
- 15-20 Mid-Year Assessments
- 30 No Classes, Inservice Day
- 29-31 SMA Varsity Basketball Tournament

# Around the Academy



Shrek The Musical



Shrek The Musical



Junior Varsity and Varsity teams WWAC Champions



Junior Varsity Provincial Champions



SMA Athletic's Council running water stations at WFPS marathon



Flames Prep team with Ladine Moldenhauer - Female Hockey Fights Cancer game



Angels on the Bridge, in support of the Misericordia Health Centre Foundation (Dec 2)



School wide Sock Hop sponsored by 106 FM in November