

# Newsletter

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends



December 2017

## President's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



**O come, O Come Emmanuel.**

In less than a week, we will celebrate Christmas, however let's continue to pause during this Advent season as we journey towards the Nativity of Jesus.

At our recent Immaculate Conception Mass on December 7, our presider Father Mark Tarrant reminded us that Advent is a time to wait, to watch and to wonder! Indeed a wise message during this season of birth and renewal. Our Advent theme this year embraces the image of the transition from the wood of the cradle to the wood of the cross. So many thoughts and images pop into our imagination when we read or hear these words! My thoughts turn to the centering and grounding effect of this image and its impact on daily choices

and decisions on our own lives and those around us. Our moral compass comes from the Divine; inspirational words to guide us through this Advent season.

I love this time of the year as I extend my gratitude to our community and its exceptional commitment to our school's mission – to nurture young women in spirit, mind and body! We are very blessed to have visionary and competent Board members under the sage guidance of Bob Cox (School Board) and Ken Cranston (Foundation Board) – I appreciate the care and concern with which they serve this community.

My heartfelt appreciation is extended to the SMA Parents' Guild under the capable leadership of Kelly Moon, with a special mention to International Day co-conveners Heidi Chuback and Shannon Cisneros for another successful International Day event held on November 5. It takes a large number of committed volunteers to make such a large community event so successful! I also wish to extend special thanks to Melanie Jones and team for organizing the Cash Lottery on behalf of the Parents' Guild and

the many students/families who sold ticket books. Let's remember that the proceeds from this fundraiser benefit both SMA students and school programs – thank you Parents' Guild for your incredible commitment to our school and students.

The re-connection of our alumnae community over the past several months has been so validating. Alumnae have approached me with a variety of timely proposals to engage our alumnae and school community – for instance, planning an SMA Business networking event, a Pop-up Shop with proceeds benefiting the Bursary Fund and a Mentorship Program to benefit our senior students about life post-SMA. Finally, the SMA Alumnae Association has experienced great success this fall with the planning and very positive results at Homecoming and AGM on September 30, the recruitment of many wonderful women for the SMA Alumnae Board and the December Celebration of the Immaculate Conception on December 3 – Teneamus Altam Facem!

May you all experience the wonder of a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas!

## Senior School Principal's Message

Mrs. Michelle Klus



**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart. James 5:7**

Waiting is an integral part of daily life: we wait for the traffic light, we wait for the phone to ring, we wait for results, and we wait for a baby to be born. Sometimes waiting can be tedious and we pass the time by playing on our phones or watching TV.

Sometimes we anticipate a JOYful end to our waiting. The celebration of waiting is central to the Advent and Christmas season. It is an opportunity to experience a spiritual waiting. A chance to recognize His presence in our lives.

Students have completed the first round of their Mid-Year Assessments and will be preparing for the second round which occur in January. Grade 12's will write their Provincial ELA Exams from January 9th-12th. Even though students are preparing for their assessments I sincerely hope that they take time to slow down and enjoy the gifts of the season.

Wishing you all God's abundant blessings during this ADVENT season of faith, JOY, love and hope! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

## Junior School Principal's Message

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



As Christmas draws near, our junior students have completely immersed themselves within the processes of learning: communicating, collaborating, critically thinking and creating as they work to increase their capabilities in the wide variety of curricular outcomes. They have faced challenges, and are learning to persevere and become more resilient in the face of these challenges. The first portion of our Mid Year assessments has occurred, with the remaining portion set for January.

Every day, our junior school students continue to respond to our community's call to personally develop character and citizenship as they journey through this part of their lives. Our youngest community members are witnessing and participating in events that serve the greater community at large, for example our *Gifts Bags From the Heart* program. More often, we see our junior students stepping up to be of service and assist at events with outside organizations. How heartwarming to see their awareness of need building, and their commitment grow in making a difference for others.

As we take time to celebrate the Christmas season, I wish you all the very best of Christmas blessings. May you all celebrate the joy of the season with open hearts, and welcome a new year with anticipation and excitement.



December 2017

## Charism and Mission Office

Sr. Michelle Garlinski '88, SNJM



**“From the wood of the cradle to the wood of the cross”**  
These were the images that guided our SMA community through the Advent to Christmas seasons. The challenge invit-

ed us to prepare our hearts and homes for the birth of the Christ-Child by helping others, decluttering and finding moments of peace. These choices add straw to the crib – making a more comfortable and welcoming place for the New Born King. We also know that the joy of the cradle is accompanied by the pain of the cross. We all experience, daily, the joys and sorrows of life. The symbols of the cradle and cross are concrete and meaningful to us on the human journey. There have been wonderful ways that as **People of Joy**,

our community has accepted the Advent challenge. We have participated in *Gifts Bags From the Heart* (for people in need in our city), we’ve gathered for prayer as a community and hosted the *Tom Jackson Christmas 150* concert supporting Winnipeg Harvest. Personally, I had the opportunity to lead our staff and Boards retreat days in November and it was clear that we are committed to our Charism and Mission.

Educating in the faith means reaching out to those most in need and caring for our internal well-being also. May this season of giving be one that brings joy to your hearts, friendship to your tables and peace to our world as we celebrate Christmas, God-With-Us, once again!  
Merry Christmas!

## Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)

Happy Advent! We began this liturgical year learning about Advent, a time of Waiting, Hope, Joy and Peace. Our focus this Advent has been to choose to be a person of Joy. Challenged to do small acts as **People of Joy**—helping people, being kind, respecting the environment, taking some quiet time to pray, maybe cutting back on the “stuff” of Christmas and focusing on the “people” of Christmas. Since the end of November, we have been involved in a number of wonderful opportunities to do just that. We had students helping the Knights of Columbus with their annual Parade Float “Keep Christ in Christmas”. Our group of J-Walkers (Justice Walkers) continues to serve the community at Welcome Home. We have gone to Villa Rosa and wrapped gifts for the women and children who live there, and been Angels on the Bridge for the Misericordia Foundation. Club LEMON made cards for the residents at Despina and Breakfast Club will be creating decorations to remember our SNJM prayer pals. Special Events created an ADVENT Calendar – a

different class each day receives a challenge to continue to choose joy by helping others. Students have baked cookies, prepared *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 community that lives at Residence Despina. Together we gathered as a school community to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and an Advent Come-and-Go Reconciliation Service. We continue to pray together each Wednesday morning with Taizé Prayer in the Chapel and we will gather on the 22nd to enter into the Christmas season.

May the God of peace and love, bring JOY to you and your family this Holy Season.

### Dates To Note

#### December 2017

- 20 Choirs at Résidence Despina
- 20 Christmas Café - 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Drinks under the Dome (for 2017 grads)
- 22 Advent to Christmas Service in Alumnae Hall at 11:35 a.m.
- 22 Cash Lottery Draw, Alumnae Hall

#### January 2018

- 8 Classes Resume
- 9-12 Gr. 12 Provincial English Exam
- 11-16 Individual Grad Photos
- 12 Colour Day (Holy Names House of Peace)
- 16 Late Start at 9:55 a.m. (Mass Day Schedule)
- 16 Open House at 7:00 p.m.
- 18-23 Mid-Year Assessments (Flex Day 18th)
- 25-27 SMA Varsity Basketball Tournament
- 26 No School (Administration Day)
- 27 An Evening at the Academy (Gala Event)

#### February 2018

- 1-3 SMA JV Basketball Tournament
- 2 New Student Application Deadline
- 5 No Classes (PD Day)
- 6 Late Start at 9:55 a.m. (Mass Day Schedule)
- 6 Parents' Guild Mtg at 7:00 p.m.
- 8-9 RetRally
- 10 Academy Closet (Pop-up Shop)

December 2017

## Mission Club

Ms. Dawn Bohonos and Mrs. Katie Friess  
Mission Club Advisors



### Gift Bags from the Heart

Once again, students and staff from St. Mary's Academy prepared gift bags for those less fortunate in our city. *Gift Bags from the Heart* has become a way for the SMA community to embrace and spread the Christmas Spirit of sharing. Every Sunday at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, volunteers have been serving a hot meal (provided by different churches and organizations) to over 300 people from the Inner City. For the Sunday guests, this is not only an opportunity to have a wholesome meal, but also a time to enjoy the community that has formed at the Drop-In.

Many St. Mary's Academy students have become part of this honour of assisting those less fortunate by not only volunteering at the Drop-In but by participating in the annual time of gift giving. Student and staff prepared gift bags that were given out by SMA volunteers on Sunday, December 10th from noon to 3:00 p.m.

### Mission Club Monthly Organization Focus

During the months of October, November, and December students at SMA participated in Colour Days which helped raise funds for Rossbrook House, Villa Rosa, and Art Beat Studio. This year, Mission Club members decided to learn more about the organizations that our community supports with our monthly toonie collections. We were fortunate to have Phil Chiappetta from Rossbrook House, Cindy Rogers from Villa

Rosa and Christine Strike from Art Beat Studio attend the monthly Mission Meeting that preceded their sponsored Colour Day. Having firsthand accounts about these organizations was extremely valuable. What awesome work they do and how fortunate our city is to have them!

We hope to continue learning about our Colour Day recipients with more speakers in the new year. Our Colour Day in January will raise money for Holy Names House of Peace and February's Colour Day is to support SNJM schools and Orphanages in Lesotho, Africa.

If you would like to make donations to any of these organizations, please contact. Ms. Dawn Bohonos at [dbohonos@smamb.ca](mailto:dbohonos@smamb.ca) or Mrs. Katie Friess at [kfriess@smamb.ca](mailto:kfriess@smamb.ca).

## Dramatic Arts

Ms. Eliana Dell'Acqua '03

It has been a busy fall and winter here in the Performing Arts Wing. I am so proud to say that the St. Mary's Academy production of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella: Enchanted Edition* was extremely successful! We could not be more proud of the entire cast and crew. Way to go everyone! I want to give a special thank you to all the people who made this possible. There was a consistent effort from staff and Administration, and we really cannot express our

gratitude enough. This year's ticket sales were through the roof! We could not be more honoured to see all the support from our community. The smiles from everyone who worked on this show will give us a lifetime of joy. Remember "impossible things are happening every day" and we are living proof. Way to go team Cinderella!

In other news, we would also like to express our gratitude to David Laird, in loving memory of Dale Laird, for donating a large amount of costumes to our Drama Department. The costumes are a beautiful collection of many years of love and care. We are so

happy to receive such a wonderful gift! We will be receiving this large donation around mid-December. Thank you to David for recognizing the need of our ever-growing program. We are truly blessed!

Thank you SMA for your love, resilience and support of our wonderful performing arts program.

## From the Parents' Guild

Mrs. Kelly Moon, Parents' Guild President

Thank you to everyone who attended or volunteered at the 43rd annual *International Day* on Sunday, November 5th. *International Day* brings the SMA community together to celebrate each other's cultural and ethnic diversity. A total of 10 different pavilions served a variety of amazing food and seven different dance troupes provided guests with entertainment. Close to \$7000 was raised which will go to support SMA. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers who helped contribute to another successful *International Day*

and to Heidi Chuback and Shannon Cisneros for chairing this event.

The Christmas Parents' Guild Meeting and Holiday Celebration took place on December 5th. After a short Parents' Guild meeting, those in attendance decorated cupcakes which were then delivered the next day to Strathcona and Shaunessey Park Schools for the children to enjoy. Thank you to Ms. Deb May who organized this activity for us and to her grade 7 students who baked the

cupcakes. As well, a huge thank you to the Hospitality Committee who provided us with amazing snacks and refreshments for the evening.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Parents' Guild Cash Lottery and to Melanie Jones for organizing and promoting one of our biggest fundraising endeavours. The draw will take place on Friday, December 22 at the Advent to Christmas School Assembly.

December 2017

## Soccer and Volleyball

Mrs. Jen O'Leary (Heywood '85)

### Soccer

The 2017-18 Indoor Soccer Season is underway thanks to Coach/Parent Denis Tsai and Coach/Parent Geordie MacKenzie. The team is undefeated in the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association High School Division and in its second year of participation continues to develop this very new program into a force to be reckoned with. Thank you to all those involved. See the SMA Website for game times and locations. Go Flames Soccer GO!

### Volleyball

Seven teams, 80 athletes, two teachers and 13 volunteers are neatly folding and putting away volleyball uniforms, storing knee pads on the top shelf and hanging up volleyball court shoes. As of December 4, 2017 the SMA volleyball season has come to a close. All teams experienced a wide variety of success and positive experiences on and off the court whether it was establishing new relationships or growing old ones, learning about volleyball extensively and developing active healthy lifestyle practices.

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

- 43 grades 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 two developmental, friendly tournaments within the Pembina Trails School Division.
- The Grade 7 Traveling team participated in the grade 8 Diggers league and finished in the top four in the Pembina Trails Athletic Association Championship.
- The Grade 8 team are Champions of the Grade 8 Spikers league with the Pembina Trails Athletic Association coached by alumnae Rachel Hill '14 and Sydney Gobelle '16. This team went on to participate in the first ever Grade 8 Provincial Championships and finished in 4th place.
- The Grade 9 team made it to the Semi-Finals of the Pembina Trails Athletic Association Championship with alumna coach Ellen Enns '10, new to the SMA volleyball community, and Kristian Rents, leading the way.
- The Junior Varsity Team finished in the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship playing an amazing match against Portage Collegiate. Thank you to coaches Leanne Leskiw and Megan

Ross. Congratulations to Sophia Anadranastakis who was named a conference All-Star.

- The Varsity Team lost a tough match against their nemesis Vincent Massey Collegiate in the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Championships, which left them to finish in the league top four. The team was granted a wildcard into the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association Provincial Championships as the 8th seed. Congratulations to Anna Maidment who was named one of the Winnipeg Sun Top 10 High School Volleyball Players for the 2017/18 season. Thank you to Coaches Christine Rewniak and Assistant Shea Pyle '16 for their endless dedication to volleyball at SMA.

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 2017 Volleyball program and the Athletic Department would like thank everyone who supported the athletes and coaches in their quest for success. Thank you for your continued support.

## From the Corner Store

Ms. Tammy Zach

### Corner Store Additional Hours

The Corner Store will be open additional hours for your convenience – shop while students are in class!

#### Open:

Tuesday, December 19: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Thursday, December 21: 8:35 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.  
Great stocking stuffers such as prepaid Hot Chocolate or Tea cards, SMA Baseball Caps and Toques and more. Plus just in time for Christmas-Roots Original Salt & Pepper Sweatpants are back in stock! Cash, cheque and credit card will be accepted.

### Grad Pillow

Do you have a GRAD in your home? Don't miss SMA's personalized "Class of 2018" pillow, a unique keepsake and great gift idea for parents, grandparents, family and friends. The design has been customized for this year's graduates and provides the option to add in your Grad's name (or sport, club or other custom text). Orders due January 31, 2018, contact Nerissa Doan at maylhani@gmail.com for more information.

## St. Mary's Academy Parents' Guild

### TORCH TALKS Perspectives on Cultivating Wellbeing in Young Women

All parents & students are invited! Register at the link below!



#### KEYNOTE

Katya Adamov Ferguson '03

At the heart of this session is the topic of reconciliation. Katya will share her arts-informed research into the power-filled role of language and its influence on our identities and our relationships within communities. Katya will explore how unpacking privilege and shifting perspectives provide opportunities to cultivate potential and resilience in young women.

Join panel moderator, Stephanie Zirino '07, as she leads a conversation with 3 SMA graduates. Panelists will answer questions like:

How did SMA prepare me - mind, body and spirit- for my life post graduation?

What advice would I give to my younger self about health and wellbeing during my teenage years?

#### PANEL

Andrea Jackson '09  
Julia Jones '13  
Lindsey Fennell '07

Saturday, January 20, 2018  
Sheila Chipman Atrium  
8:30am - 11:30am

Space is limited!

Register online at [bit.do/torchtalks](http://bit.do/torchtalks)

December 2017

## From the Alumnae Office

Mrs. Kerri Moore (McIvor '94)

Congratulations to the SMA Alumnae in Business Committee on the success of their inaugural professional networking event, *Celebrating SMA in Business*, held on October 26. Over 80 alumnae participated in this event and heard Susie Erjavec Parker '92, Principal at SPARKER Strategy Group speak on her experiences as a female entrepreneur. We're looking forward to the next SMA Professional Networking event in Spring 2018.

SMA's Mentorship Committee hosted an *Ask An Alum* event for Grades 11 and 12 students the afternoon of November 23. We welcomed 18 of our alumnae to share

some of their post-secondary experiences and answer any questions students had about life after SMA. Stay tuned to Ms. Fennell for more opportunities for mentorship.

The month of December is full of SMA traditions! The SMA Alumnae Association hosted *December Celebration and Christmas Tea* on Sunday, December 3, celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We welcomed our Former Staff back for the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass and Brunch* on Thursday, December 7. The Class of 2017 will be back for *Drinks Under the Dome* on Wednesday, December 20

to pick up yearbooks and enjoy tapas and sangria. We're looking forward to catching up with our newest grads and hearing about their post-SMA experiences.

We are collecting gently used women's clothing and accessories for the first ever SMA Pop-Up shop: Academy Closet. The clothing drop off bin is located at Reception at the Wellington Crescent entrance. Please consider donating some of your clothing to this event in support of the Mother Marie-Rose Bursary Fund. The Sheila Chipman Atrium will be transformed into a Pop-Up Shop the afternoon of Saturday, February 10, 2018. Check out the Committee's latest promotional video, produced by our very own Laura Quinton '15 - <https://vimeo.com/245816122>

## From the Advancement Office

Mrs. Diane McGowan

**Give the Gift of Education this Christmas**  
Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher believed that an entire society can be transformed if the minds and hearts of young women are nurtured.

A donation to the **Mother Marie-Rose Bursary Fund** at SMA will help to educate young women in spirit, mind and body.

**Donations may be made by:**

- Ongoing monthly payments
- A lump sum gift

Click on the "Canada Helps" link at [www.smamb.ca/support-us/donate-today/](http://www.smamb.ca/support-us/donate-today/) to make your donation. If your donation is in honour of someone special this holiday season, include their name and mailing address in the comment section and we will send them an acknowledgement on your behalf.

**Wine Donations for An Evening at the Academy**

We are asking our community for 100 bottles of wine, valued at \$20 to \$40 per bottle, to be donated to the "You Had Me at Merlot" wine wall, in support of SMA's *Deo Gratias Fund*. Drop your bottle off at the Administration Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Your donated bottle will be wrapped, numbered and sold for \$25 at **An Evening at the Academy**. Each buyer is a winner of a bottle. If you have questions, please contact Diane McGowan at [dmcgowan@smamb.ca](mailto:dmcgowan@smamb.ca) or 204-478-6030.

**Open for Business over the Holidays**

The Advancement Office is open from December 27th to 29th and January 2nd onward.

**Thank You and Merry Christmas**

The generosity of the St. Mary's Academy community is a treasured gift and we are most grateful that you continue to support the Academy in advancing its mission to educate young women in spirit, mind and body. During this Christmas season we wish you much love, joy and peace and may 2018 be a year filled with good health, happiness and prosperity.

## from the Accounting Office



Charitable donation receipts for the **2016-2017 school year, for inclusion with your 2017 tax return, are being prepared and will be mailed in February 2018.**

Receipts for the 2017-2018 school year, for inclusion with your 2018 tax return, will be issued in February 2019.

**Tuition Payment**

For those families who chose Plan B, please remember that your final payment will be withdrawn from your account January 2, 2018.

**Accounting Office Holiday Hours**

The accounting office will be closed December 23, 2017 to January 2, 2018.

## SMA Reception Holiday Hours

December 25, 2016 to January 1, 2018  
Closed

January 2, 2018 to January 5, 2018  
9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m

Merry Christmas

# Around the Academy



Cinderella



Cinderella



Mass at International Day with His Grace Archbishop Richard Gagnon presiding



Gift Bags from the Heart



Angels on the Bridge



Tom Jackson Concert



Retired and Former Staff Brunch