

Newsletter

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends

NEWS

October 2015

President's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



October is the month of thanksgiving; as I have reflected on the start of this new school year, I continue to marvel at and to be grateful to all those around me who help make this a community of learning, faith and service for the students entrusted in our care. Blessings and much gratitude to all!

What does SMA of the future look like to you? We hope to get the answers to this very important question this year through the work of the Strategic Planning Committee and our newly-hired consultant. The Strategic Planning Committee (Ad hoc Committee of SMA Inc. consisting of Chair Scott Greenlay, Mike George, Wanda Daza, Jim McLandress, Leanne Boyd, Danielle Fullan-Kolton, Meagan Boles-SMA Foundation Inc. and Connie Yunyk)

has been gathering and planning since March 2015 and interviewing prospective consultants since the summer 2015. We are delighted to announce that CY Solutions, represented by Doris-Mae Oulton, Cam Mackie and Craig Mackie, has been hired to facilitate our strategic planning process. Current students and parents and alumnae will play a very important role in the data gathering process. If you are asked to participate in any way via a telephone interview, survey, focus group or online discussion group, please share your thoughts! I am hopeful that we are all inspired and moved by the following words of wisdom taken from an SNJM General Chapter Assembly document, serving as a constant reminder of our roots, traditions, values and mission as we launch into gathering information and insight from our community and develop a strategic plan to guide us over the next five years:

"We describe core values of our charism as hospitality, dedication to women and children, concern for the poor, dedication to justice and love for Jesus and Mary. All is divine gift, a unique manifestation of the Spirit instilled in Mother Marie-Rose and the Congregation she founded, so that God's presence on earth might be revealed through us to cast fire on the earth."

Principal's Message

Mrs. Josie Audino



This year the theme that guides us at SMA is **People of Hospitality**. We have welcomed 127 new students to our school. The halls have been buzzing with activity and enthusiasm since we opened our doors.

Along with our focus on academic programs, many of our extra-curricular activities have begun. We are very blessed and extremely grateful

to have staff members who, not only teach full loads, but also volunteer their time to supervise our many clubs, including: Strings, Con Fuoco and Con Spiritu choirs, Drama, Human Rights, Mission, Special Events, Green Team, Peer Support, the Spark Newspaper, Debating, Yearbook, Campus Ministry and Pottery. Concomitantly, our sports programs (cross-country, golf, volleyball, badminton and hockey) are well on their way.

Mother Marie-Rose week and Retrally, organized by our Campus Minister, Joanne Steeves, was very well received. We are very grateful and thankful to our Grade 12 students who were excellent leaders. At the Mother Marie Rose Mass, our guest speaker, Susan Searle, focused

on the theme of the previous week; Leadership and Hospitality. After the Mass, 62 pins were distributed to grade 12 girls who have been at St. Mary's Academy for 6 years (super-sixers).

This week our student body is engaged in Mental Health Awareness Activities and on Friday we look forward to the Robb Nash Project Presentation. Our students will be engaged, through the power of music and words, and be encouraged to continue to make positive life choices and to lead purposeful lives.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Indeed, even at the lowest times, we should try to remain positive and be thankful!

In this issue

President's Message	1
Principal's Message	1
International Day	2
Annie: Dramatic Arts Performance	2
Campus Ministry	2
Mission Club	3
Green Team	3
Grade 7 Camp	3
High School Hockey/Bandy	4
Cross Country	4
Dates to Note	4
From Durocher Library	5
From the Parents' Guild	5
Corner Store	5
From the Alumnae Office	5
From the Advancement Office	6
Around the Academy: Photos	7

Facility upgrades

Our facility has experienced many upgrades over the past few months. I am especially pleased to report that our Cafeteria, a place where your daughters spend time with their peers, has now had a complete makeover, with the final piece fully completed: a new, high highly durable floor. Finally, pray for warm weather until Sunday night...our new boiler system will be officially fired up Monday October 19!



October 2015

International Day

Mrs. Martina Kucey

International Day
Sunday, November 8, 2015
Mass: 10:30 a.m.
Pavilions: 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please join SMA in Celebrating 41 years of International Day! International Day is the main fundraising event organized by the Parents' Guild and it is a very important event, as all funds raised go to annual special projects and enhanced programming for our girls.

The International Day Committee is busy preparing a very special day for families and friends of SMA. The day will begin with Mass in alumnae Hall at 10:30 a.m., followed by tours of cultural exhibits, entertainment and wonderful homemade food!

Students are busily preparing art pieces and lovely baskets for our Student Art and Rainbow Auctions. You will also have an opportunity to purchase some of the dishes you enjoy at the event. Come out and experience this day in support of our daughters. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Rainbow Auction Donations
Each class is preparing a themed basket. Donations should be sent back to your daughter's homeroom. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers

Parents play a huge role in the success of International Day. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts the day of International Day. Sign up on the SMA website (under the Parent tab select "Volunteering") or contact Volunteer Coordinator,

Clemente Abaya at clemabaya@gmail.com.

International Day Cash Raffle

The Cash Raffle draw will take place on International Day at 2:45 p.m. Books are \$50 (10 tickets at \$5 each). Each student is asked to sell one book of tickets. Each day until October 19th a table will be set up between 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the school foyer where a volunteer parent will take raffle books and money, and issue additional raffle books if requested. **Deadline for all raffle tickets and monies is Monday October 19th.**



Ms. Joy Beauchamp '80

Annie is well underway! As a school community, we have not done the full length Broadway version of Annie since 1992, and many wonderful changes have happened in our theatre wing since then. The set

for Warbuck's amazing mansion is being constructed in our production wing, while on stage, New York City is being brought to life on our new scrim installed just last August. Rehearsals are right on schedule and filled with energy; often rehearsals have dance and choreography occurring in our Drama Classroom that has full length mirrors for easy dance corrections; while singing and stage movement are occurring in Alumnae Hall. Our new costume lab is organized with many needed costumes for the production already on racks, and plans are underway for a lovely lighting design.

Tickets

Be sure to note October 20 on your calendars as that is the date the tickets will be available on-line through our St. Mary's Academy website.

Show Schedule

Note that this year we are launching a new show schedule:
- **Opening Night: Thu, Nov 26 at 7:30**
- **Friday Night: Fri, Nov 27 at 7:30**
- **Family Matinee: Sat, Nov 28 at 2:00 p.m.**
Tickets \$15.00. Buy yours early to avoid disappointment.

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)

It is hard to believe we are already into the middle of October. The blessings we have shared have been abundant, and we have much to be thankful for. The Campus Ministry team has been very busy these last few weeks. We planned many student events from welcome cards and retreats to the annual Retrally, and Mother Marie-Rose week. This year we were delighted to host our SNJM prayer pal sisters for individual class Tea parties. Each class went above and be-

yond being *People of Hospitality* ensuring each of the sisters who joined us was give the royal treatment! We even had a surprise visit from Mother Marie-Rose herself.

Coming up we are pleased to offer the following:

Wednesday Morning Mass

Beginning October 14 at 8:00 a.m. in Holy Names Chapel. Parents are welcome.

Service Fair

We were pleased to have 13 agencies and organizations join us for Service Fair '15 on October 15th. The Fair took place in the Sheila Chipman Atrium from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Harvest Thursday

We participate in Harvest Thursday, helping out at the Unitarian Universalist Church (across the street) at the food bank. This takes place every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., beginning October 23.

J-Walking

Our grade 11 Just Walking (J-Walking) group begins soon.

October 2015

Mission Club

Ms. Teresa Uruski & Mrs. Josie Audino
Mission Club Advisors

This year our outstanding leadership team includes Haley Finch, Sydney Kazina, Emma Reznichuk, Gloria Nguyen, Christine Tran, Sam Furgale, Leah Handford, Isabella Geith, and Rachel Beazley who bring amazing planning skills that will help organize all the activities of the St. Mary's Academy Mission Club.

One of our main goals this year is to continue to educate all SMA students about the various community organizations and programs that the Mission Club will work to raise funds for. The team will be inviting students to join them in visiting and inter-

viewing community contact people with the aim of putting together video resources that can be used by Mission Reps to inform their classmates of how the money we donate assists various projects that reach real people in our community.

Every month the Mission Club will focus on charities and organizations started by or supported by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary:

October: Rossbrook House

November: Villa Rosa

December: we will continue a long held tradition of preparing Christmas Gift Bags for the people that come to the Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre.

January: Holy Names House of Peace

February: Holy Names school and students in Lesotho Africa.

One day during each of the aforementioned months we will host a school wide 'Colour Day' where all students have the option to donate a toonie and wear relaxed apparel for the day (instead of their uniform).

Some of the club activities to date include our first Mission meeting in October where over 35 students attended as representatives for their Homeroom or as members interested in assisting the Mission Club "reach out with HOSPITALITY – to welcome one another and help those in need both locally and in our global community."

If you would like to make a donation to any of these organizations – please contact Ms. Uruski at 204-477-0244 or turuski@smamb.ca.

Green Team

Mrs. Kendra Lé

Yes "We Can"!

On Tuesday, October 20th, The SMA Green Team, in conjunction with an anonymous SMA family, will launch our "We Can" pilot project. The idea for this program came from an SMA family who saw the impact that inspirational days like "We Day" had on their daughter. Wishing to make a difference in the SMA community, the family decided to create a pop can recycling project.

The project involves the school-wide placement of specially marked "We Can" bins that will be used to recycle empty pop cans (no glass, plastic, or paper cups). Once a week, these pop cans will be collected, crushed, and taken to a local scrap metal company. The money collected from this project will go towards scholarships for St. Mary's girls who wish to attend a post-secondary institution. If successful, this program will hopefully be implemented in other local high schools and impact a great number of students.

Note that the SMA Green Team will still carry on with our pop can tab collection in support of the Holy Cross wheelchair program. We encourage all students to recycle pop cans in the "We Can" bins and continue to place their tabs in the separate tab containers found in the cafeteria or homeroom classrooms. Also note that the Recycle Everywhere bins throughout the school are to be used for plastic bottles only. Thank you for supporting our efforts!

Grade 7 Camp

Mrs. Dawn Bohonos

On the morning of September 23, eighty-three eager grade 7 students took their seats on busses that transported them to Camp Arnes, a beautiful camp on the shores of Lake Winnipeg near Gimli. Students enjoyed two nights and three days of activities, prayer, reflection, and comradery.

Ella Amato, a grade 7 student, describes her camp experience:

How did I like Grade 7 Camp, you ask? Well, let me explain...

This year's Grade 7 Camp will always be one

of my greatest memories. Not just of my first year at St. Mary's Academy, but of my whole life. It was the best experience EVER!

As a new Grade 7 student, I'll be honest, I was kind of nervous at first to go to camp. But, as soon as I got off the bus on that chilly Wednesday morning, I had a hunch it would be the best three days of my life. And, I guess that hunch was right, because I did in fact have the best three days ever!

Whether it was climbing up complicated rock climbing walls, or jumping off the top

of a small telephone pole (who knows how many feet up in the air), I loved it all!

At first, some of the activities were, to me, kind of scary and intimidating. Thankfully, my new friends cheered me on no matter what, which made me have a whole lot more courage to finish successfully.

My favourite activity was the initiative tasks. These tasks really helped me to get to know more girls and learn to cooperate and work as a team to solve the obstacles.

I'm so glad I went to this Camp because it helped me appreciate how lucky I am to go to such a great school with great people, making great memories and having great fun!

October 2015

High School Hockey/Bandy

Ms. Stephanie Zirino '07



SMA High School Hockey has the chance of a lifetime! The Canadian National Bandy team is excited to present an opportunity to join with the St. Mary's Academy high school hockey team in international competition. **On October 23, 2015 the first Team Canada U18 Female Bandy Team will depart for Sweden to compete at the 2015 World Bandy Championships.** There are 20 girls participating, accompanied by St. Mary's Academy teachers Stephanie Zirino and Carol-Ann Swayzie, as well as

Bandy coaches Costa Cholakis and Kevin Marchuk.

Bandy is a sport that can best be described as "field hockey on ice". It is played on an ice surface the size of a football field, and has 10 skaters and a goalie on each team. It is popular throughout Russian and Scandinavian countries. Bandy is currently played in 30 countries around the world and was recently recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

The partnership with Bandy Canada has allowed our girls to participate in a new sport and immerse themselves in a new culture. This fall will mark the first time Canada has made a presence on the U18 Bandy world stage. As you can imagine, the community is very excited about this opportunity. It marks a once in a lifetime experience for this group of young women, as well as giving them an opportunity to realize their potential Olympic dreams in the near future.

With the generous help of community members, sponsors and volunteers, the ladies are on their way to representing St. Mary's Academy and Canada with pride!

Cross Country

Mr. Demetro Danyluk

SMA's Cross Country Running program had another successful season due to the commitment and dedication of all athletes. The students trained throughout the summer months and were ready when we came together as a team.

Junior Team

The Junior Cross Country team mixed with grade 7s and 8s won the Pembina Trails Athletic Association Championship and then went on to capture the Athletics Manitoba Provincial Championship. The team consisted of Alyssa Moon, Ella Thomson, Gabi Dawyduk, Emily Leskiw, Olivia Fulton, Rhyann Boucher, Hana Chyzy and Katrina

Stipanovic. This team was very spirited and talented, hopefully they will continue to run as they move on and up.

Junior Varsity Team

The Junior Varsity Cross Country team mixed with 9s and 10s showed strength from the get go. A number of athletes came in fit for the season and were competing very well amongst each in our practices and meets. This team won the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference and Athletics Manitoba Championships. They completed the sweep in convincing style winning the Manitoba High School Provincial Championships at Spruce Woods Provincial Park with a very low score of 25 points.

Varsity Team

The Varsity team finished a strong 5th place at the Manitoba High School Provincial Championships. They may not have made the podium however they put in an excellent effort, were marvelous teammates and represented St. Mary's very well.

Congrats to the team members who trained hard; running up hills, along with their speed, interval and long distance practices. All this training paid off for all of following runners: Sierra Sutherland, Amanda Ludlow, Adara LePage, Sam Cattani, Ainsley Cameron, Megan Wrublowsky, Tiffany Fernando, Maia Idzikowski, Melissa Dreger, Tristan Chambers, Casey Nelson, Claire Healey, CoCo Kolteck, Sarah Watson, Ashley Manigre, Amanda Dillon, Sophia Partyka and Madison Maurice.

Dates to Note

October 2015

- 16-17 SMA JV Volleyball Tournament
- 22 Junior Dance
- 23 No Classes: SAGE
- 26 No Classes: Staff Retreat

Archdiocese of Winnipeg 100th Anniversary Commemorative Christmas CD

Pre-order a 100th Anniversary commemorative CD that contains a couple of songs sung by SMA's Con Fuoco choir. Order form available from the home page of SMA's website. Cost is \$10 per CD.

November 2015

- 3 Picture Retakes
- 4 Take Our Kids to Work Day
- 5 Report Card Distribution
- 8 International Day
- 10 Remembrance Day Assembly
- 11 No Classes: Remembrance Day
- 12 12:35 p.m. dismissal, PT Conferences
- 13 No Classes, PT Conferences
- 19 Burning Bright Speaker Series
- 26 Annie - 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Colour Day
- 26 Annie - 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Annie - 2:00 p.m.

December 2015

- 6 Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Mass and light lunch. All welcome.
- 7 Mass at 8:35 a.m.
- 8 No Classes: Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 9 Parents' Guild Christmas Party
- 9 Gifts from the Heart Assembly
- 10 Mid-Year Assessments: Flex Day
- 11 Mid-Year Assessments
- 14 Mid-Year Assessments
- 16 Christmas Cafe: 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Advent to Christmas Service: 11:35 a.m.
- 18 Last Day of Classes

October 2015

From Durocher Library

Ms. Sheryl Chongva and Ms. Kelsey Jennings

This past summer, Ms. Chongva had the opportunity to attend the retreat "A Pilgrimage of the Heart with Mother Marie-Rose" in Winnipeg, with the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary and Associates. At the beginning of the retreat attendees learned that during the early days of the Congregation, the Sisters had a rocking chair for Mary, their superior. They would rock the chair slowly if they needed guidance or more quickly if the issue was more serious. At the retreat, attendees would sit

in the rocking chair, placing a prayer shawl on their shoulders whenever passages were read about her life. It created a spiritual and emotional connection to Mother Marie-Rose.

As a remembrance of Mother Marie-Rose, and in honour of Mother Marie-Rose week, a rocking chair has been placed in the library, where the students can sit if they would like to have time to reflect, refocus, or read.

Drop Everything And Read day will take place on October 19, 2015. Join us in the library from 1:05 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. for an old-fashioned story time. We know that reading doesn't always happen in the library so take a selfie of yourself reading anywhere on campus, as wacky and wild as you can imagine, and send it in to us at library@stmarysacademy.mb.ca. Pictures will be used to decorate the library until the end of October to celebrate **Canadian Library Month**.

From the Parents' Guild

Mrs. Kristi Cumming (Stuart '89)

The Guild hosted the first annual "After School Special" on September 24th. While the grade 7 students were away at camp, grade 7 parents enjoyed an evening of wine, appetizers and socializing. Experiencing "a day in the life" of their daughter and finding their way around SMA provided lots of entertainment! A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all who attended. We look forward to expanding the evening to new parents at all grade levels next year.

Thank you for supporting the International Day Raffle that is currently underway. Funds raised go towards extra-curricular activities, school programs and equipment for our girls. Stayed tuned for more specifics of what is supported this year. Please plan to attend the 41st annual **International Day** – Sunday, November 8th. Mass at 10:30 am. Pavilions open at 11:30 am.

Register to volunteer online

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

Parents' Guild Christmas Party

The Guild Christmas Party has changed dates to **Wednesday, December 9th**. And the party has a new format...watch your email for details!



Mrs. Lidia Erickson

New Hours of Operation The Corner Store is now open 5 days a week - 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Brand new design of Russell chenille hoodies in the store. Roots hoodies are in stock both navy & grey. Come and see us during International Day and Parent Conferences - these are good opportunities to pick up Christmas gifts.

From the Alumnae Office

Ms. Amy Houston '03

On Thursday, October 1st the Advancement and Alumnae Office hosted the inaugural **Burning Bright Speaker Series** event with guest speaker, Sister Susan Wikeem. The event was a sold out success! We invite you to join us for the second of four speaker events on **Thursday, November 19** featuring a panel discussion on the topic: **Beyond The Truth & Reconciliation Commission: What can we do to advance Reconciliation?** Moderated by SMA teacher, Michael Saj. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$20 and available by contacting ggaudes@smamb.ca or call 204-478-6030.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

SMA welcomes you and your family to join the Alumnae Association to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, December 6. Mass begins at 11:00 a.m. in Holy Names Chapel followed by a light lunch. Friends and family are welcome. Donations of non-perishable food items, new hats, mitts and scarves or monetary donations will be gratefully accepted and donated to Rossbrook House in celebration of their 40th anniversary.

October 2015

From the Advancement Office

Ms. Georgine Gaudes '83

We are excited to have launched our first ever *An Evening at the Academy* with net proceeds from the event benefiting the St. Mary's Academy Bursary Fund.

The bursary needs of students attending SMA have increased by 54% in the past 5 years. This year we have 74 students receiving bursary assistance, totalling \$277,000.

An Evening at the Academy is an opportunity to be a part of a unique fundraising and dining experience, which will take place at St. Mary's Academy on January 30, 2016.

The event will take you through time and space as you journey through the school: music and appetizers in our historic 1902 building, dinner and jazz in our 1963 facility and dessert in our 2013 Sheila Chipman Atrium.

Arrange a table with parents from your daughter's class year!

The combination of experience and philanthropy that a ticket affords is a one of a kind gift to all who will attend. Tickets to the event also make a great Christmas pres-

ent for your daughter, family and friends. Adult Tickets are \$175 each and high school student tickets are \$90 each. Purchase tickets online at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca, under the "Events" tab. If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, or have other questions, please contact me at 204-478-6030 or ggaudes@smamb.ca.

Wishing you a wonderful fall season, full of colour and joy.



An Evening at the Academy

An Evening at the Academy is a progressive dining experience that will take you through time and space within St. Mary's Academy's historic walls. Cocktails and appetizers in the 1902 facility. Dinner in the 1963 wing. Dessert and music in the 2013 Sheila Chipman Atrium.

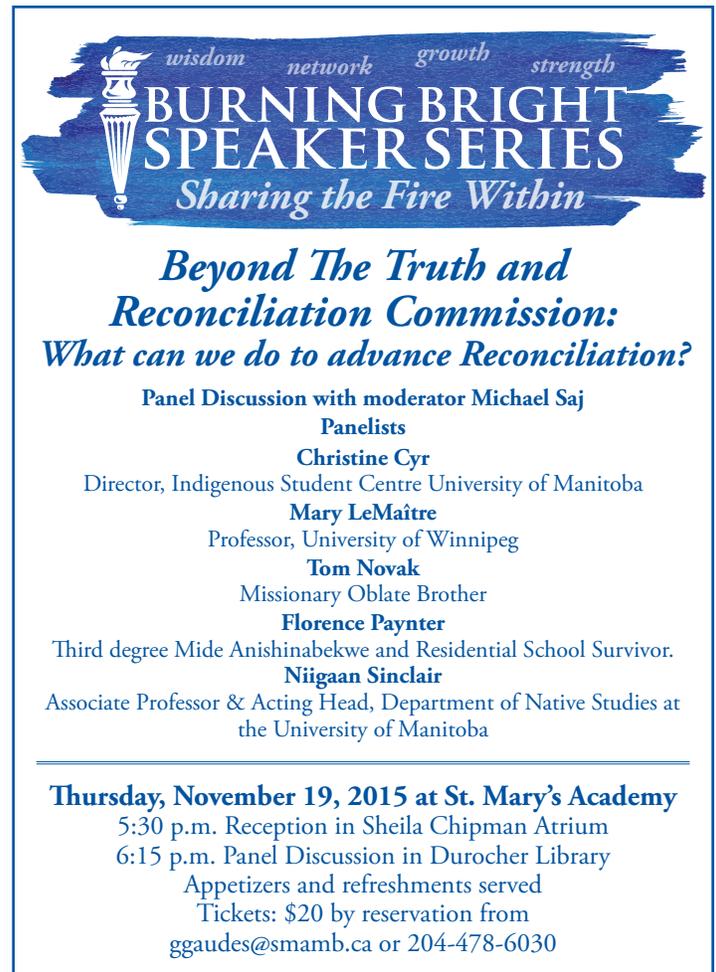
— Proceeds benefit St. Mary's Academy's bursary fund —

Saturday, January 30, 2016

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. | Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent

Black Tie Optional
Tickets: \$175 each
Purchase tickets at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca
or call Georgine Gaudes at 204-478-6030



wisdom network growth strength

**BURNING BRIGHT
SPEAKER SERIES**

Sharing the Fire Within

***Beyond The Truth and
Reconciliation Commission:
What can we do to advance Reconciliation?***

Panel Discussion with moderator Michael Saj

Panelists

Christine Cyr
Director, Indigenous Student Centre University of Manitoba

Mary LeMaître
Professor, University of Winnipeg

Tom Novak
Missionary Oblate Brother

Florence Paynter
Third degree Mide Anishinabekwe and Residential School Survivor.

Niigaan Sinclair
Associate Professor & Acting Head, Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba

Thursday, November 19, 2015 at St. Mary's Academy

5:30 p.m. Reception in Sheila Chipman Atrium
6:15 p.m. Panel Discussion in Durocher Library
Appetizers and refreshments served
Tickets: \$20 by reservation from
ggaudes@smamb.ca or 204-478-6030

Around the Academy



Mother Marie-Rose week



Mother Marie-Rose week



Grade 7 Camp



SMA High School Hockey team participating in the 2015 World Bandy Championships in Sweden at the end of October



SMA Flames Prep team at the Terry Fox Statue in Thunder Bay, Ontario September 26, 2015

