

TORCH LIGHT

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY
YEAR IN REVIEW
FALL 2025



50 Years of
International
Day SEE PAGE 6



TORCH LIGHT

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Dr. Mary Shariff '83
Sister Lorraine St-Hilaire, SNJM
Sister Susan Wikeem, '63, SNJM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Michelle Klus
PRESIDENT | ST. MARY'S ACADEMY

As we reflect on the past school year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for our wonderful community. Our school theme, *How do I share our story?*, was more than a guiding question—it became a living thread woven through every part of Academy life. From school-wide Masses and daily prayers, to classroom community time, graduation celebrations, the 50th anniversary of International Day, the Marian Awards, and more, we embraced opportunities to reflect on how God's Word and our shared experiences have deepened our relationships and enriched our community.

Looking ahead, we are inspired by our new theme: *How do I cast fire?* This powerful call invites us to grow our relationship with God and spread His Word and good works with courage, compassion, and conviction. I look forward to seeing how this theme will ignite hearts and minds in the year ahead.

It is a true honour to serve as President of St. Mary's Academy. The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) laid the foundation and built our vibrant community, which continues to flourish. I remain committed to nurturing a strong Catholic learning environment and a deep sense of belonging—within our historic walls and across the broader SMA community. As we begin developing a comprehensive Strategic Plan, I look forward to engaging with our stakeholders and shaping a bold, faith-filled future together.

To our community members—thank you. Your time, dedication, and talents are the heartbeat of SMA. I extend my deepest gratitude to SMA Stewardship, SMA Inc., and SMA Foundation board members—especially those concluding their service and those just beginning their journey with us. A special thank you to the Parents' Guild and our alumnae, whose contributions help create a vibrant future and lasting memories. To our generous donors: your support ensures that the mission, vision, and values of the SNJM—to provide a Catholic education for girls—continues to thrive. And to our families: the love and care you shower upon your daughters and all you do for our school is immeasurable. Last but certainly not least, thank you to our students, who are at the heart of all we do. Each one brings unique gifts and talents that enrich our school today and shape the world of tomorrow.

One of my greatest joys this past year was witnessing our students learn and grow. Alongside that, I found deep meaning in building and strengthening relationships across our SMA community—a commitment that continues to inspire me and will remain a guiding light in the years ahead. Community is a vital part of life at SMA; it's a gift I treasure and hope you do as well. I look forward to the many opportunities we will have to connect in the coming year.

God bless,
Michelle Klus
President

AROUND THE ACADEMY

ROOTED IN FAITH

At St. Mary's Academy, we anchor ourselves in our Catholic faith, recognizing that a strong spiritual foundation helps us navigate life with kindness, grace, curiosity, resilience, and a desire to grow, serve others, and contribute meaningfully to the world. Each year, we are guided by a school theme that invites both reflection and action. The theme for 2024–2025 was “How do I share our story?”, accompanied by the Gospel verse, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news” (Mark 16:15).

This year, we placed special emphasis on the Foundation in Faith: Catechesis, Evangelization, and Scripture—teaching students about God (knowledge), God's ways (experience), awakening and nourishing faith, and proclaiming the Gospel.

Across school-wide liturgies, Religion classes, homeroom Masses, daily prayer, classroom community time, and service, students explored how we come to know God's Word, deepen our relationship with Him, and share our story—and the Good News—with others.



GRADE 7 CAMP

In September, our Grade 7 students began their SMA journey with a three-day camp at Camp Manitou. With students joining us from over 40 different schools, camp offered an opportunity to build community, share in prayer and faith, foster independence, and connect with nature. Activities like kayaking, hiking, bonfires, and crafts gave students space to grow, bond, and try something new. Thanks to the generosity of SMA donors, every student was able to attend at no cost to their family, making this shared beginning accessible to all.



ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

From November 28 to 30, 2024, St. Mary's Academy echoed with laughter, music, and mischief as students staged an unforgettable production of Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical. Janna Rein Cuevas '25 captivated audiences in the title role, with Isabella Cesario '27 bringing warmth and sincerity to her portrayal of Miss Honey, and Alera Morrisseau-Swampy '26 commanding the stage as the formidable Miss Trunchbull. More than 70 ensemble members in Grades 7 to 12 helped bring the story to life, supported by over 100 students and staff behind the scenes on the creative and production teams. As the cast reminded us—“We are revolting!”—in the very best way. Special thanks to director Ms. Laura Davey '05 for her inspiring leadership.



Miss Honey singing to Matilda

Miss Trunchbull and students

LITERARY TRIP TO ENGLAND

During Spring Break, 45 of our Grades 10 to 12 students, along with six faculty members, travelled through England on a literary and cultural experience. The trip included visits to Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the Jane Austen Centre, Westminster Abbey, Canterbury Cathedral, Windsor Castle, Tower of London, and Stonehenge. The group also toured the Harry Potter Studio, visited Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and attended two productions in London's West End. The trip offered students a deeper connection to literature, both classic and contemporary, and to the people, places, and performances that continue to shape it. The journey was a jam-packed adventure filled with enriching experiences and unforgettable memories!



JUNIOR EXTENDED SERVICE EXPERIENCE

From June 17 to 20, 2025, SMA hosted its biennial Junior Extended Service Experience (JESE), an optional overnight justice immersion and education program for students in Grades 7 and 8. With daytime placements at local service sites and evenings spent in community and reflection at the school, students explored faith in action. Delivered by the Mission and Charism Team, JESE fosters empathy, deepens understanding of Catholic social teaching, and strengthens community connections. The final day included a special visit from Archbishop Chatlain, who presided over a beautiful closing Mass.

Entire group with Archbishop Chatlain,
after Mass in Holy Names Chapel



VOLLEYBALL

Our Flames Junior Varsity volleyball team had a great season, capturing the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference championship title as well as claiming first place at both the Miles Macdonell and Selkirk tournaments.



INDOOR SOCCER

Our Flames soccer team had a strong season, winning the 2025 U17 Girls Golden Boy Tournament and finishing first in regular season standings, while finishing second place in the league playoffs in the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association High School Premiership Girls League.

AROUND THE ACADEMY

50 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL DAY

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND FAITH

On April 21, 2025, St. Mary's Academy celebrated the 50th anniversary of International Day—an event rooted in appreciation for the many cultures, customs and stories that enrich our school. First held in 1975 as a grassroots gathering organized by the Mothers' Guild (now the Parents' Guild), International Day began in classrooms with home-cooked meals, cultural displays and music. Over time, it has grown into the Parents' Guild signature community building event and one of SMA's most cherished traditions, now filling the Cafeteria, Alumnae Hall and Sheila Chipman Atrium with the sights, sounds and tastes of cultures from around the world.

This year's event featured a multicultural Mass, a "50-Year Walk Down Memory Lane" exhibit, food from 11 cultural pavilions, vibrant entertainment, and raffles.

Our student newspaper, The Spark, published a special anniversary issue with reflections including:

"It is important to note that the pavilions have always been a representation of the student population; in the 1970s, SMA celebrated over a dozen cultures."

—Conversations with Sister Susan and Sister Marylyn, by Maria Barone '26 and Umber Kaur '27

"These songs display how other cultures celebrate God."

—Sharing Our Story Through Song, by Johanna Wieden '27

"International Day provides the best opportunities to showcase the special characteristics of my culture, and allows people to experience the beauty that others showcase about their heritage."

—Performing at International Day, by Delphina Noel '27

We give thanks to God for the beautiful cultural diversity that strengthens our community and continues to make International Day a blessing year after year.

View photos at smaphotos.ca/intday2025

2017-2018 School Year, students with former Archbishop Gagnon



1980-1981
School Year



1994-1995
School Year



2000-2001
School Year



2012-2013
School Year



International Cuisine





CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

Our seniors celebrated their milestone year filled with cherished traditions—the Grade 12 Retreat, Graduation Mass and Brunch, Graduation Dinner and Dance, and Convocation. At the Graduate Brunch, Mia Norbury '25 was named Miss Congeniality, as chosen by her peers, and all graduates were inducted into the SMA Alumnae Association. At Convocation, Sophie Sierhuis '25 delivered the Salutatory Address, having been selected by her classmates, Sabrina Batla '25 gave the Valedictorian speech, an honour awarded by a panel of judges. The Address to Graduates was delivered by alumna and former SMA teacher Jeannine Pistawka (Barnabé '88).

Sophie opened Convocation with warmth and gratitude, thanking families, classmates, and teachers for the care, guidance, and encouragement shared throughout their time at SMA. Valedictorian Sabrina Batla '25 offered a moving reflection, sharing two meaningful Urdu words that captured the heart of the day:

“We began this journey with *intezaar*, a constant waiting for this very day. But now, I invite you to let go of that aching anticipation as I teach you another Urdu word, *mukammal*, meaning complete, whole, and fulfilled. We are *mukammal* today, having learned all of the lessons this institution had to offer us, and it is time for us to move forward and embark on new paths filled with new lessons.”

We are proud of our 116 graduates, who leave SMA grounded in faith and ready to ***Hold High the Torch*** in our world.



SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY



In 1874, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) came to the new province of Manitoba from Quebec to assume responsibility for St. Mary's Academy (SMA), which had been founded in 1869 by the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, more commonly known as the Grey Nuns. The SNJM were at the helm of the school until 2022, when they formally withdrew and transferred responsibility for SMA to the St. Mary's Academy Stewardship (SMA Stewardship) on September 12, 2022.

The role of the SMA Stewardship is "to further Catholic education that was originally undertaken by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg." The SMA Stewardship implements this purpose by exercising canonical Sponsorship over SMA Inc. and SMA Foundation Inc. through the appointment of their members and the reception of annual reports. The members of SMA and the Foundation are accountable to the SMA Stewardship for ensuring the School and the Foundation are implementing their ministry in accordance with the Mission and Governing Philosophy of St. Mary's Academy and the legislation and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Current SMA Stewardship Members are: Archbishop Chatlain, Teresita Chiarella, Reis Pagtakhan, Bob Puchniak, Dr. Mary Shariff '83, Sister Lorraine St-Hilaire, SNJM and Sister Susan Wikeem '63, SNJM.

UPDATE ON THE SISTERS

Twenty-nine Sisters currently belong to the canonical (administrative unit) Manitoba Province. Fourteen reside at Résidence Despins, an independent and supportive living centre in St. Boniface, while others live in personal care homes or in private accommodations. Many are former SMA faculty and staff and remain connected and involved in the life of the school.

Sister Josephine Chudzik '59, a long-serving clerical assistant in the finance office, continues to offer private piano, music theory, and beginner guitar lessons from her studio at the school. She also attends alumnae and retired staff gatherings.

Sister Michelle Garlinski '88, former Director of Mission and Charism, lives in Santa Cruz, California, ministering at Villa Maria del Mar, an SNJM-owned retreat centre. Sister Michelle has served there for the past three years.

Sister Marylyn Gibney volunteers weekly in the Alumnae Office, helping to maintain contact lists and update records. She is very active with the SNJM Associates and in retired staff gatherings. Sister Marylyn lives at Despins, where she serves as coordinator for the Sisters.

Sister Mary Gorman '49, former teacher, principal, and director, resides at Despins. While she now stays closer to home, she continues her ministry of prayer and encouragement for the SMA community. Her many cards and phone calls to staff and community members are appreciated.

Sister Vera Hoelscher '49, former teacher and accountant, and **Sister Johanna Jonker '59**, former teacher, also live at Despins. Sister Johanna attends many school events.

Sister Joanne Pundyk '63, former teacher, has lived and ministered in Brazil since 1987. She operates the Marie Rose Centre in Maceió.

Sister Lorraine St-Hilaire, former teacher and vice-principal, has held governance roles in SMA Inc. and the SMA Foundation. She continues to serve on the SMA Stewardship. For the previous three years, serving with her on the SMA Stewardship were **Sister Edith Grenier** and **Sister Cathy Laviolette**.

Sister Susan Wikeem '63, former teacher, principal, and director, is the current SNJM Provincial Superior for Manitoba. She remains involved as a member of the Civil corporations of SMA Inc. and SMA Foundation Inc. and as Convenor of the SMA Stewardship.



Sister Michelle Garlinski '88 Sister Joanne Pundyk '63

Back row, left to right:
Sister Marylyn Gibney, Sister Lorraine St-Hilaire,
Sister Susan Wikeem '63, Sister Edith Grenier,
Sister Josephine Chudzik '59.
Front row, left to right:
Sister Cathy Laviolette, Sister Vera Hoelscher '49,
Sister Mary Gorman '49, Sister Johanna Jonker '59

SNJM CONGREGATION WORLDWIDE

Today, 490 SNJM serve across Canada, the United States, Peru, Brazil, and Lesotho. The Congregation is currently transitioning to a new governance model. As of July 2026, provincial structures and leadership will be replaced by regional groupings with administration centres. A Congregational Leadership Team, headquartered in Longueuil, Quebec, will guide the global community moving forward.

SNJM ASSOCIATES

The SNJM Associates are women and men committed to living the mission and spirit of Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Today, 516 Associates across Canada, the United States, and beyond carry this legacy forward—56 of them in Manitoba.

Associates are united in giving daily witness to SNJM core values: faith, education, and service for the full development of the human person. According to their individual gifts and circumstances, Associates:

- Promote justice through education and action
- Welcome and advocate for people who are marginalized
- Celebrate and support one another in their faith journey

In Manitoba, Associates meet monthly from September to May to pray, learn, grow, and serve together. Pictured are local Associates at their Closing Liturgy and Gathering held on May 14, 2025 at St. Mary's Academy.

New members are always welcome. To learn more or express interest in becoming an Associate, please email snjmmmb@mymts.net or call 204-475-7673.



Left to right: Teresa Campbell (Skinner '72), Kaitlyn Militano '06,
Nancy Militano (Herriot '77), Ernie Bart, Lucille Bart

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNAE ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR



Sandra Martin (Alwis '97)
ALUMNAE ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY FOUNDATION
SMARTIN@SMAMB.CA | 204-560-6923

SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

When I reflect on my time at St. Mary's Academy, I remember more than just textbooks and uniforms. I remember the quiet strength of the Sisters who guided us—not only in our studies, but in shaping our character. They taught us that success isn't solely measured by grades, but by kindness, humility, and service to others. Their example cultivated a spirit of generosity in me and my classmates. Whether it was through small acts like donations on non-uniform days, reading to children, assembling shoebox hampers, or volunteering to give back to the community, those simple gestures left a lasting impact.

Years later, in my work engaging with our alumnae, I see those lessons continue to thrive in the lives of so many fellow graduates. From healthcare workers to non-profit leaders and dedicated volunteers, our presence is felt everywhere—giving back in both big and small ways. This is no coincidence. The values instilled in us at St. Mary's—compassion, responsibility, community—have taken root and flourished. At every alumnae gathering, I'm inspired by the stories I hear, each one a testament to the legacy we carry forward.

Though our paths may differ, we remain united by a shared foundation of service, forming a unique sisterhood. The Sisters shaped generations of women who stepped into the world with open hearts and willing hands.

I'm encouraged by the way St. Mary's continues to nurture the development of spirit, mind, and body—fostering in today's students a strong sense of compassion, purpose, and service to others.

The Sisters' legacy lives on—not only in us, but in every life we touch.

ACCEPTING MARIAN AWARD NOMINATIONS

St. Mary's Academy Marian Awards recognizes distinguished alumnae and friends who embrace and exemplify SMA's mission and vision in our community and the world.

We are accepting nominations for the 2026 and 2027 Marian Awards. We invite everyone in the SMA community to consider recommending a worthy candidate. The deadline to submit is November 13, 2025.

For more information and to access the online nomination form, please visit smamb.ca/events/marian-awards



CALL FOR BURSARY STORIES

We know that behind every bursary (financial assistance for tuition) is a powerful story—of courage, gratitude, and the life-changing impact of a St. Mary's Academy education. Stories have the power to inspire generosity and remind us all what's at stake when we invest in young women.

As we prepare for our upcoming fundraising campaign, we invite past bursary recipients and their families to share their experiences with us. Your voice can help others understand just how transformative this support can be. If you're willing to share, we would be honoured to hear from you.

For more information, please contact the SMA Advancement Office: advancement@smamb.ca or 204-560-6924.

CELEBRATIONS

DECEMBER CELEBRATION AND TEA | DECEMBER 1, 2024

The SMA community came together in fellowship on the first Sunday of Advent for a touching liturgy led by Fr. Colin Peterson. Students in the school's Con Spiritu Choir delighted guests with their rendition of *O Sanctissima*, and Sister Josephine Chudzik '59, SNJM graced Mass with her music on piano and organ. Following the service, guests enjoyed time to connect and reflect over tea and light refreshments. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for this cherished tradition—and to those who generously contributed donations to Rossbrook House.



Left to right: Art Martin, Sophia Bryson '29, Kimberly Bryson (Martin '00), Ardelle Martin



Left to right: Sister Josephine Chudzik '59, SNJM, Elizabeth Bacinger (Chudzik '65), Kate Hodgert-Fennell '99, Cheryl Prokopanko '72, Carol Hryniuk-Adamov '72



Back row, left to right: Lily Mikijanec, Deanne McDonald (Hebert '59), Andrea Cibinel (Fricke '76), front row, left to right: Deborah May, Sister Marylyn Gibney, SNJM



Left to right: Erika Smith-Champagne '24, Emma Szklarczuk '24, Robin Gacek (staff)

DRINKS UNDER THE DOME | DECEMBER 19, 2024

The Class of 2024 returned to SMA for Drinks Under the Dome at the start of winter break. This time-honoured tradition offered our newest alumnae the chance to catch up with classmates, reconnect with teachers, and share stories from their first few months beyond SMA. Guests enjoyed light refreshments as they received their yearbooks, sparking quiet laughter and fond memories as they turned the pages together. The evening included a visit to Academy's picturesque dome—a cherished ritual for graduates.



Left to right: Eros DeGuzman '24, Anandita Sharma '24



Left to right: Ria Sarsaba '24, Ruth Asefa '24, Jenna King '24, Katelyn Moon '24, Sophia Halayko '24, Marissa Magsino '24

HOMEcoming

HOMEcoming | SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

We were delighted to welcome our community back to St. Mary's Academy for Homecoming 2024—a special reunion celebrating the enduring bonds that connect generations of SMA graduates. The day began with the Commemorative Years Brunch, honouring alumnae from the **Classes of 2014, 2004, 1999, 1994, 1984, 1974, 1969, and those from 1964 and earlier.** We were also pleased to welcome the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, along with former faculty and staff—each of whom has played a meaningful role in

shaping the story of the school. Sister Marylyn Gibney, SNJM, offered Grace before guests enjoyed a delicious meal catered by The Gates on Roblin. Bénédicte LeMaître '12 served as master of ceremonies. Following brunch, Fr. Gerry Ward presided over Mass, and the celebration continued with touring and tea. Alumnae and friends lingered into the afternoon, walking the halls with former classmates, reconnecting with familiar faces, and sharing stories from their formative years at SMA.

View more photos at smaphotos.ca/homecoming2024



Class of 1964



Class of 1969



Class of 1974



Class of 1984



Class of 1994

Taylor Reimer (Martin '14)

Left to right: Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77), Lorne Hess, Lily Mikijanec



Class of 1999



Class of 2014



Class of 2004, gathered in November



Left to right: Amanda Finch '14, Dana Soubry (Plett '14), Breanne Timlick '14, Chantale Semchysyn (Bosc '14), and Megan DaCosta '14



Sandra Martin (Alwis '97)



Left to right: Heather Wallace (Crocker '94), Michelle Klus



Left to right: Lindy Ledohowski '94, Kathryn Kolbuch Holm '94, Kerri Moore (McIvor '94), Heather Schroeder (Southam '94), Mara Le Clair '94, Heather Wallace (Crocker '94), Michelle Bell (Claeys '94), Sally Erjavec Fisher '94, Jennifer Forbes '94



Valerie Ganchar (Yakiwchuk '74)

MARIAN AWARDS

St. Mary's Academy Marian Awards recognize distinguished alumnae and friends who embrace and exemplify SMA's mission and vision in our community and the world.

MARIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS



2024

Marlene Coughlin (Cantwell '53) is a proud alumna, wife, parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent, as well as a pioneering businesswoman, and dedicated volunteer. In 1971, she and her husband, Guy, founded Coughlin Insurance Brokers. Balancing family and business in an era with few women in leadership, she played a vital role in its success. A lifelong

volunteer, Marlene is an Associate of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and has dedicated years of service to Holy Names House of Peace, Immaculate Conception Drop-in Centre, Rossbrook House, and remains an active participant in the Jubilee Fund. Marlene and Guy also organized the Serra Club of Winnipeg's Annual Gala Dinner for 25 years. Marlene has led with faith, vision, and service throughout her life. Her trailblazing leadership in business and steadfast dedication to family and service exemplify the spirit of *Hold High the Torch*.



Marlene Coughlin (Cantwell '53) and family



2025

Dr. Joan Flood '73 is a proud alumna, wife, parent, and grandparent, as well as a physician, educator, and advocate transforming ADHD and Autism care in Canada. As the Canadian Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Resource Alliance (CADDRA) Advocacy Chair, she co-authored a white paper leading to Bill C-329, calling for a national ADHD strategy. She trains

clinicians, shapes clinical guidelines, and has spoken internationally, including addressing the Danish Parliament on ADHD policy. She also chaired CADDRA's 2024 conference held in Winnipeg, bringing together global experts to advance ADHD care. Joan is actively involved in medical education, teaching family medicine residents at the University of Toronto, and developing national training programs to improve ADHD and mental health care. Joan embodies *Hold High the Torch* through her faith, service, and commitment to making a positive change in people's lives.



Dr. Joan Flood '73 and family

St. Mary's Academy is deeply grateful to the sponsors, donors, and volunteers whose generosity and dedication brought this special celebration to life.

WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR



CATERING SPONSOR



PRESENTING SPONSORS



FLAME SPONSORS

Stephen & Kerri Moore (Mclvor '94)
Summit Growth Consulting Ltd.



MARIAN AWARDS BRUNCH | MAY 4, 2025

The St. Mary's Academy community gathered in celebration of faith, leadership, and service at the Marian Awards Brunch. The event began with a welcome reception, followed by a wonderful brunch catered by The Gates on Roblin. Guests were welcomed by Master of Ceremonies, Ann Hodges '82. Then Interim President, Michelle Klus, offered remarks and later presented the awards, Sister Lorraine St-Hilaire, SNJM, provided a Land Acknowledgement, and Sister Marylyn Gibney, SNJM, led Grace. The event brought together alumnae, families, and friends to honour two extraordinary women who embody the spirit of *Hold High the Torch*. The 2024 Marian Award was presented to Marlene Coughlin (Cantwell '53), who was introduced by her granddaughters, Darby Coughlin '16 and Lindsay Komishon '06. The 2025 Marian Award was presented to Dr. Joan Flood '73, introduced by her friend and classmate Mary-Coleen Shanahan '72. Music was provided by SMA's Con Spiritu choir, under the direction of Bénédicte LeMaître '12, and student Johanna Weiden played the piano.

View more photos at smaphotos.ca/marianawards2025



Back row, left to right: Raquel Diez, Elizabeth Grover, Patricia Bozyk '61, Joan Erskine, Jean van Wallegghem (Glesinger '58). Front row, left to right: Lucy Beckta (Stepien '65), Evelyn Lane (Vermeullen '60), Dr. Christine Butterill (Keegan '60), Janet Downs (Curran '61)



Left to right: Diane McGowan, Pattie Moore (Delabbio '69), Margaret Brett (Hetke '65)



Back row, left to right: Sister Marylyn Gibney, SNJM, Sister Lesley Sacouman '63, SNJM, Sister Josephine Chudzik '58, SNJM. Front row, left to right: Sister Lorraine St-Hilaire, SNJM, Sister Edith Grenier, SNJM, Sister Johanna Jonker '59, SNJM, Sister Susan Wiikeem '63, SNJM



Left to right: Marlene Coughlin (Cantwell '53), Kate Kiernan '79, Tom Vowell



Left to right: Carol-Ann Swayzie (van Es '80), Principal, Michelle Klus, Interim President, Joan Trimble, Vice-Principal



Beverly Henry, Sister Marylyn Gibney, SNJM



Ann Hodges '82



Left to right: Margaret Vriend (Doyle '73), Joan Spice (Halliday '73), Marian McGurran-Scott '73, Joy Marsh (MacDonald '73), Dale Ann Ketcheson (Scott '73)

CAREER AND MENTORSHIP

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY'S CAREER AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM BRIDGES ASPIRATION AND EXPERIENCE.

Through a range of events and initiatives, students are supported as they explore career paths and plan for life beyond graduation. The Program brings together alumnae and members of the SMA community—leaders in their fields—who generously share their time, insight, and experience. Together, they inspire the next generation to pursue their passions and build meaningful futures.



ASK AN ALUM | GRADE 11 AND 12 | NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Ask an Alum offers real talk from recent grads.

Current students heard firsthand from SMA alumnae who've recently made the leap from high school to post-secondary. Through panel discussions and small group meetings, these candid conversations offered valuable insights into everything from academic choices to managing newfound independence and reminded students that they're not alone as they take their next steps. The result was a sense of connection, reassurance, and inspiration that stayed with students long after the conversation ended.

THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNAE FOR VOLUNTEERING



Josie Abbott '16



Lauren Niemen '16



Adrienne Beaumont '18



Claire Healey '18



Amber Reichardt '18



Jasmine Tavares '18



Victoria Bird '19



Sargun Rehsia '19



Nathalie Kolton '20



Emily Leskiw '20



Beatrice Puchniak '20



Mia Downey '21



Erin Oulette '21



Kierra Wilfer '22



Vy Doan '23



Nefertiti Onyiuke '23



Meghan Lagadi '24

CAREER SPEAKERS

Career Speakers offer insight, inspiration, and real-world perspective.

Alumnae and parents from a wide range of industries shared their professional journeys with current students—what drew them to their careers, the successes they’ve celebrated, the challenges they’ve overcome, and the lessons they’ve learned along the way. These candid conversations gave students the opportunity to ask questions, gain practical advice directly from women in the industry, and sparked ideas for the future.



Left to right: RCMP Officer, Chantal Alary, Dr. Devi Atukorallaya

GRADE 9 CAREER SPEAKERS | OCTOBER 17, 2024

Dr. Devi Atukorallaya, Dentist and Developmental Biology Researcher; **Chantal Alary**, Senior Landscape Architect; and a trailblazing RCMP Officer, shared their diverse professional journeys and thoughtful insights. From craniofacial development and oral health advocacy, to blending creativity with environmental design, to a meaningful career in law enforcement, each speaker offered powerful lessons and real-world perspectives. Their stories inspired students to explore new possibilities and pursue their passions with confidence.



Left to right: Corrine Kulyk '97, Ann Hodges '82, Dr. Angie Mathieson '84

GRADE 10 CAREER SPEAKERS | MARCH 7, 2025

Ann Hodges '82, Artistic Director at Prairie Theatre Exchange; **Dr. Angie Mathieson '84**, Anesthesiologist at Health Sciences Centre; and **Corrine Kulyk '97**, Managing Partner at Taylor McCaffery LLP, shared valuable insights into their respective educational journeys and careers. From their academic paths to the intricacies of their professions and the lessons learned along the way, they provided an informative and inspiring experience for our students.

*“Diversify your knowledge
beyond your own culture.”*

– Ann Hodges '82

CAREER AND MENTORSHIP EVENTS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

GRADE 9 CAREER SPEAKERS | OCTOBER 16, 2025

ASK AN ALUM | NOVEMBER 27, 2025

GRADE 10 CAREER SPEAKERS | MARCH 6, 2026

PANEL INTERVIEWS & MOCK JOB INTERVIEWS | APRIL 23, 2026

To express your interest in volunteering with the Career and Mentorship program, please contact the SMA Alumnae Office: alumnae@smamb.ca or 204-560-6923.

CAREER AND MENTORSHIP

PANEL INTERVIEWS | GRADE 11 AND 12 | APRIL 24, 2025

Panel Interviews help students build confidence and career readiness.

Designed to strengthen communication and presentation skills, Grade 11 and 12 students were invited to present themselves and their work to a panel of alumnae. In return, they received thoughtful feedback, practical advice, and words of encouragement—all in a supportive, low-stakes environment that mirrored real-world experiences. It was a powerful way to practice professionalism and connect with mentors who've walked a similar path.



Left to right: Anna Xu '26, Michelle Ajayi '26, Sabrina Batla '25, Wynona Teologo '26

THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNAE AND FRIEND VOLUNTEERS

Kate Kiernan '79
Rekha Malaviya '83
Angie Mathieson '84
Cynthia Campbell '90
Monique Dumontet '91
Julia Wilkins '97
Suzan Goritz Tetrault '99
Roxanne Tackie (Greaves '99)
Susan Polz '94
Melanie Potter (Twerdun '00)
Melissa Cattini '03
Cecilia Davies '03
Dayna Queau-Guzzi '06
Jessica Slater (Malach '10)
Whitney Boiteau '11
Anne Quinton '12
Annemiek Mallory '18
Joanne Baris
Leah Crymble
Jamie Pope
Debra Ryan
Brian Steeves (SPHS '88)
Alyssa Tahimic

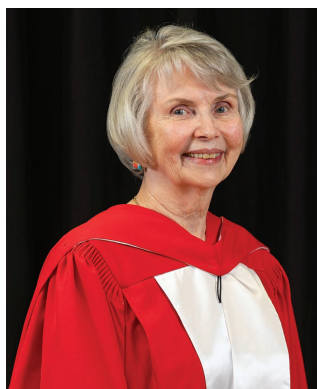


MOCK JOB INTERVIEWS | GRADE 10 | APRIL 24, 2025

Mock Job Interviews help students land their first job.

New this year! Grade 10 students had the opportunity to participate in 15-minute mock job interviews with alumnae working in the retail, food service, and sports camps sectors. With resume prep and real-time feedback, this new initiative helped students gain confidence, sharpen their interview skills, and connect with alumnae mentors who provided practical advice and encouragement.

Back row, left to right:
Adriane McElrea (staff), Annemiek Mallory '18,
Jamie Pope, Anne Quinton '12, Brian Steeves
(SPHS '88), Cecilia Davies '03, Kate Kiernan '79,
Angie Mathieson '84
Middle row, left to right: Sandra Martin (Alwis '97),
Leah Crymble, Joanne Baris, Monique Dumontet '91,
Suzan Goritz Tetrault '99
Front row, left to right: Melanie Potter (Twerdun '00),
Jessica Slater (Malach '10), Julia Wilkins '97



1963 150 community-minded Winnipeggers were recognized for their significant contributions to their neighbourhoods and the city at large in celebration of WINNIPEG 150 last year. **Sister Lesley Sacouman**, SNJM, was one of those chosen for her extraordinary impact at Holy Names House of Peace and Rossbrook House. Sister Lesley

was honoured with a specially designed WINNIPEG 150 Medal, a certificate signed by Mayor Gillingham, and a tree planted in her name in a Winnipeg park.

Sister Lesley was also honoured by the University of Winnipeg with an Honorary Doctor of Divinity in May 2025 for her commitment to Winnipeg's marginalized communities and her role as a compassionate educator, community builder, and faith leader.



1964 A multigenerational SMA family going back to 1923, Natalie van Rosmalen '04, Michelle Whetter (van Rosmalen '92), Connie van Rosmalen '94, and **Rosemary van Rosmalen (Trudeau)**, attended Homecoming in September 2024 to celebrate Rosemary's 60th reunion. Shown in photo, left to right, in order named.



1967 **Gwen Buccini (Pucci)** was recognized as a part of WINNIPEG 150 celebrations. Gwen founded the Tabs for Wheelchairs program in 1998 while she was a teacher at Holy Cross School. Over the past 27 years, 69 specialized wheelchairs have been presented to young people in Winnipeg and surrounding areas thanks

to this program. Gwen attended the WINNIPEG 150 awards ceremony in fall 2024 where she was honoured with a Medal, a certificate signed by Mayor Gillingham, and a tree was planted in her name in Maple Grove Park. Gwen is pictured with Markus Chambers, Deputy Mayor of Winnipeg.



1969 The St. Paul's College Ignatian Society recognized exceptional community members with Magis Awards at the Celebration of Giving and Sharing in November 2024. **Leanne Boyd**, BSW, MSW, RSW, was celebrated in the category of innovation and ingenuity for exemplifying

the Ignatian ideal of being "persons for others" through their service and generosity. Her life's work highlights her compassion and commitment to mental well-being and community engagement. SMA recognized Leanne with a Marian Award in 2014. Leanne is pictured in the centre with Michelle Klus (right) and Sandra Martin (Alwis '97) (left) at the Magis Awards Celebration.



1980 In May, the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law celebrated its graduates by presenting the annual Faculty of Law Alumni Awards. Honourable Judge **Catherine Carlson** received the Outstanding Alumni Award for her exceptional contributions to the legal profession and community.



1982 **Ann Hodges** was appointed Artistic Director of Prairie Theatre Exchange. A respected figure in Winnipeg's theatre scene with extensive experience on national and international stages, Ann brings a passion for community-building and storytelling to her new leadership post. Ann returned

to SMA twice this year to share her talents, both as a Grade 10 Career Speaker and as emcee of the Marian Awards Brunch.

1994 The **Class of 1994** gathered together to commemorate the life of classmate Sharon Dainard and to celebrate their 30th reunion at Homecoming in September 2024. Following the formal program, the group met up at a local restaurant to reminisce and reconnect.



1994 Carol Sicat was awarded the Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Associations Award for Most Outstanding Individual for 2025 — a prestigious honour that highlights exceptional contributions to the field of aircraft maintenance and engineering. In addition, she was invited

to the House of Commons by Minister Jamie Moses, who presented her with an official Member Statement recognizing her impactful work in the aerospace industry and leadership in diversity initiatives within the Manitoba Government. This recognition represents a milestone achievement, not only in Carol's personal journey, but also as a historic moment for women in Canadian aviation, as she is the first female recipient of a major national aviation award in Canada.



2002 Candace Jacobson (Maxwell) and her husband Delvin were delighted to celebrate their daughter, Charlotte Maryanne's, first birthday on February 16, 2025.



2003 Melissa Giller (Grapentine) was recently named a finalist for the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards in recognition of her work in coaching and consulting. She is the founder of The Mindful Boss Academy and has spent the past five years building a

practice that includes leading a mastermind community for local women in business and teaching in the entrepreneurship program at the Asper School of Business. Melissa is pictured at the Intuition in Business Gala, a 2023 fundraiser she organized in support of Toba Centre. She lives in Winnipeg with her husband, owner of Smack Pet Food, and their two children.

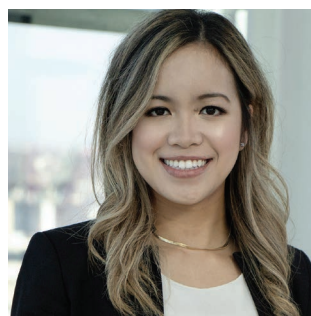
2009 Ola Pecuch and her husband Antony joyfully welcomed the birth of their son, Jakov Andrijko, on July 20, 2024.



2012 Alexandra Allan (Goodman) and her husband were delighted with the arrival of their son, Eli Adair Allan, born on October 23, 2023.



2014 Dana Soubry (Plett) joyfully celebrated her marriage to Paul Soubry III, a St. Paul's High School graduate from the Class of 2013. The couple is excited to begin this new chapter of their lives together, surrounded by the love of family and friends.



2014 Dr. Mira Villegas is an advocate for equity and diversity in medical education. Mira is a second-year resident physician specializing in pediatrics, and is passionate about improving opportunities for future medical learners and improving the disproportionate ratio of Filipinos in medicine.

Mira is an active member of the Filipino Association of Medical Students and various residency committees helping to improve the Pediatrics Residency training program at the University of Manitoba.



2015 Kristen Piché graduated with distinction from the University of Manitoba in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science (Dean's Honour List). In 2023, she graduated from the Max Rady College of Medicine as a Doctor of Medicine, and is now in the second year of a five-year residency program

in Radiology. Since completing her studies at SMA in 2015, Kristen has gained significant clinical experience in medicine, published research papers, and pursued various leadership initiatives as a volunteer and student. In June 2024, she married Dr. Skyler Eastman and the couple resides in Winnipeg.



2016 Athena Dinos '83 and Ross Hoople are thrilled to announce the marriage of their daughter **Ilianna Hoople** to Christopher Penner (SPHS '16) on June 1, 2024. Alongside them were best man Demetri Karvelas (SPHS '15) and maid of honour Stephanie Houvardas '17. Winnipeg celebrations were followed by a second reception with family in Greece.



2018 Rylee DeJong recently graduated with a Master of Science with Merit from Keble College at the University of Oxford. Rylee is a third generation SMA alumna and her mother Christie DeJong (Beckta '88), grandmother Lucy Beckta (Stepien '65), aunt Laurie Turpin (Beckta '93), and many other family and friends are so proud of Rylee!



2016 Fiona Vowell is currently posted to Islamabad, Pakistan, as Migration Officer for the Government of Canada. Fiona has been working as a federal public servant for Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada for the last five years and is responsible for interviewing and making

decisions on refugee cases for Canada. In her free time, she is enjoying hiking and travelling.



2018 Sapphire Moroz graduated in 2024 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) from the University of Manitoba School of Art. In recognition of her outstanding academic and artistic excellence, Sapphire was awarded two University Gold Medals for Highest Standing in Art

as well as for highest standing in the School of Art Studio Honours program. Since graduating, she won the Prisma International Art Prize, and was shortlisted for the Figureworks Prize. She has exhibited locally in Winnipeg, as well as in Ottawa, Montreal, and Rome, Italy.

FORMER TEACHERS



This past October, at the 2024 Canadian Student Debating Federation (CSDF) National Debating Seminar in Fredericton, NB, former SMA faculty member **Jordan Burg** was honoured with the CSDF Brian Casey Award for Lifetime Achievement. With a 34-year career in education, he has been a dedicated advocate for student debate, coaching at both SMA and St. Paul's High

School, and remaining active in the community since retiring in 2017. A former 14-year CSDF Board member, Jordan has attended 24 National Seminars, hosted three in Manitoba, and led initiatives to expand debate programs across the province, including launching the first French and bilingual high school programs in Winnipeg. He continues to serve nationally with CSDF and Speech & Debate Canada, and locally as Outreach Coordinator for the Manitoba Speech and Debate Association.



Former SMA teacher **Deborah Nickel** passed away on December 16, 2024. She is remembered for the indelible mark she left during her remarkable 34-year career teaching Art at the Academy. Through her dedication, vision, and commitment to excellence, she built an

exceptional program that inspired generations of students to pursue creativity with passion and purpose. Her love of art and creativity were boundless. Her memory will be forever treasured, and her legacy lives on in the vibrant artistic spirit she nurtured at SMA. Rest in peace, Mrs. Nickel.

GRAPEVINE STORIES | Submit your story for the 2026 Grapevine to alumnae@smamb.ca. Deadline to submit is April 15, 2026.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT



Kate Hodgert-Fennell '99
DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
ST. MARY'S ACADEMY FOUNDATION
KHODGERT-FENNELL@SMAMB.CA
204-478-6031

A SINGLE SPARK CAN SET THE WORLD AGLOW

I've said it before and I'll say it again: at St. Mary's Academy, advancement is about more than just fundraising. It's about coming together as a community united by a common purpose. It's about standing arm in arm to ignite opportunity for young women to grow and thrive. It's about kindling the spirit of generosity that lives at the heart of our mission. This past year, the SMA community came together in a remarkable way to do just that.

Thanks to the generosity of Bob and Marnie Puchniak—and the 150+ donors who answered their call—we not only met our bursary matching goal, we surpassed it. We are proud to report that a total of \$173,106 was raised for the SMA Bursary Program this year alone. Every gift, no matter the size, helped double the impact and opened doors for students who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to experience the spirit and sisterhood of SMA. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Our "I give because" campaign brought this generosity to life in a deeply personal way. Donors shared heartfelt messages about why they give to bursaries: to honour their own SMA experience, to carry forward a family legacy, to invest in the future of girls' education. These stories remind us that each act of giving is rooted in love, memory, and hope—and that the ripple effects of each gift extend far beyond the moment it is made.

Looking ahead, we're building on this incredible momentum. In January 2026, St. Mary's Academy will host IGNITE—a gala fundraising dinner in the tradition of beloved Evenings at the Academy and in support of bursaries and school programs. This special evening will celebrate our shared mission, illuminate the dreams of our students, and continue the work of breaking down barriers to access.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant community of supporters. Your generosity is the spark that lights the way—and with the year ahead already aglow with possibility, we're just getting started.



YOU MADE IT HAPPEN: INAUGURAL ONLINE AUCTION RAISES **\$67,757** FOR SMA STUDENTS

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, the first-ever St. Mary's Academy Online Auction was a resounding success—raising almost \$68,000 to support our students through enhanced program offerings focused on experiential learning, leadership development, and mental health and well-being.

Your gift, your bid, your sponsorship—it made a difference.

- Bidding + Donations Raised: **\$33,622**
- Sponsorships Raised: **\$34,135**
- Total Impact: Almost **\$67,757** raised for student enrichment

But the numbers only tell part of the story.

Because of your support, every Grade 7 student—regardless of financial circumstances—was able to attend camp at no cost to their family. The impact was immediate and personal.

"Camp helped me realize how much fun nature can be and taught me to connect with people I wouldn't normally talk to."

"At first, I didn't know anyone in my cabin. But by the end, we were all laughing, singing, and cheering each other on. I came back with confidence and new friends."

"I overcame my fear of heights and learned I'm stronger than I thought."

Camp isn't just a trip—it's a milestone. It teaches courage, builds friendships, and fosters a sense of belonging that lasts well beyond three days in the woods.

This is the power of your generosity.

When you invest in St. Mary's Academy, you help create spaces where girls can discover who they are and who they are becoming. You open the door to moments of discovery, resilience, and joy.

From all of us—thank you.



Auction Committee Members

Madison Barron (Harding '09)	Susie Erjavec Parker '92
Michelle Bell (Claeys '94)	Alexandra Malkiewicz '14
Amanda Camara '09	Rob McCaffrey
Michael Choiselat	Lianne Pereux '98
Cindy Cordeiro	Alannah Thibodeau '13
	Tanya Weppler

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Aveda Institute Winnipeg / Verde Salon Group
Baltic Brothers Crafted Infusions
Beyond Flowers
Calm Air
Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet
Chantal Tkachuk (Oster '90)
Darren McMillan Golf Services
Dave and Louisa Guitard
De Luca's
Delaney Vun '03, Zephyra Vun '05 and Everett Vun '11

Delta Hotels by Marriott Winnipeg
Disco's Party Bus
Dlux Design & Co.
Essentique Aveda Salon & Spa
Esso Tuelon
Fairmont Winnipeg
Folklorama
Glendale Golf & Country Club
Good Neighbour Brewing
Henderson Vision Centre
Jones & Company Wine Merchants
Karma Esthetics & Hair Salon
Kate Hodgert-Fennell '99
Laura Gillshammer '16
Luxe Barbeque Company
Lynsey Corbett Photography

Manitoba Chamber Orchestra
Manitoba Opera
Manitoba Theatre for Young People
Melissa Giller '03
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Prairie Velo
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Rainbow Stage
Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre
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Sargent Sundae

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Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers
WOW! Hospitality

DONOR RECOGNITION

Thank you for believing in St. Mary's Academy. Your generosity makes a real and lasting difference in the lives of our students. Because of you, we are able to deliver an outstanding education rooted in faith, preserve the sacred spaces that shape our school community, and ensure that financial barriers do not stand in the way of a young woman's potential. Every gift reflects a shared commitment to empowering the next generation—and we are truly grateful.

MOTHER MARIE-ROSE CIRCLE | \$25,000+

Bob and Marnie Puchniak

FOUNDERS CIRCLE | \$10,000 – \$24,999

The Dufresne Foundation Inc.

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Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

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Eric Moscarella Foundation

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Kelly Sitarz and Hilde Gonzalez

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Malcolm and Jennifer Bird

Marlene Blackman (Falloon '76)

Georgina Borkofski

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Kelly Boulay and Scott Stewart

Alexandra Bourne and Grant Melnychuk

Patricia Bozyk '61

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Christine and Daryl Brigg

Kevin Brown and Christy Sokol-Brown

Janet Brown '65

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Charisse Cyr

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Dennis and Katherine Dane

Nadine Dannenberg (Gauthier '95)

Linda Dart

Malay Kumar Das

Laura Davey '05

Jacqueline and Justin Day

Kyle Dear and Kevin Williams

Corrine Deegan '74

Eliana Dell'Acqua '03

Claudia Desjardins (Wulbern '77)

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Lee Downey (Coughlin '65)

Nicole Dubois '09 and Joshua Simair

Valerie Duma '65

Christine Eichkorn (Reise '55)

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Shirley Newman
Oanh Thi Hoang Nguyen and Long Dinh
Phuong Nguyen
Tannis Niziol (Baxter '75)
Olufunke and Chuku Nwosisi
Cesar and Lolita Oandasan
Neena Oberoi (Bawa '85)
Charles Odum
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Chukwudumebi and John Onyiuoke
Christine Oriel (Pampolina '94)
Sara Orlesky and Aaron Blouw
Kellie O'Rourke '76
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Dr. Allison Paige and Allan Moore
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Marijan and Helen Paulic
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Teresa Petriw (Prokopanko '75)
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Bernhard and Rhonda Plett
Gene and Frances Podlesiecki in honour of
Jeanette Mantolino (Podlesiecki '02)
Laural Porth-Jones and Richard Jones
Kelli Potter
Jocelyn Preston (Martens '65)

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can be made at smamb.ca/support-us, by completing the
enclosed Donation Form, or by
contacting advancement@smamb.ca or 204-560-6924.

Cheryl (Balaberda '72) and
Lawrence Prokopanko
Lawrence Prout and Lisa Gardewine
Wen Pu
Mary-Alex Puchniak Willer '03
and Lance Willer
Louise Rickenbacker (Robins '51)
Klinita Rigsby (Howard '93)
Karen (Dutcheson '82) and Charles Roblin
Nicole Roch (Blunderfield '90)
Joanne Roddy-Rodrigues '81
Elizabeth Roth and Balan Santiago
Jean Roth '71
Rob and Sara Rusak
Aline Savoie
Bill and Val Shelest
Naomi and Sherlock Sheppard
Brett Taylor and Leanne Shewchuk
Marin Shtefanesa
Gina and Oscar Silva
Carole and Clark Sinnott
Joan Siran (Yarema '60)
Sabrina Sison '98
The Siwak Family
Heather Skublics Lampman '87
The Smalley Family
Linda Spear '57
Michelle and Richard St. Croix
Joanne (Weight '90) and Brian Steeves
Greg Stranges Medical Corp.
Thomas and Wanda Struthers
Yvonne Stupak (McClure '64)
Katherine Supleve
Nelson Tatlonghari
Adele (Saiko '82) and Bob Taylor
Sharon and Patrick Tesoro
Sydney Tetrault (McDonald '73)
Marisol and Robert Thompson
Breanne Timlick '14
Analeisa and Tatiana Tratch
Jon Trenholm and Chantal Alary
Ramona Trzopek-Gemmell '78
Roberta Turner (McGuire '60)
Rosemary (Trudeau '64) and
Tony van Rosmalen
Arnold Velasco and Sonia Intac-Velasco
Glenn and Olea Villanueva
Virtus Consulting Ltd.
Dr. Ken von Kuster
Shanase and Roshan Wanigesinghe

Father Gerard Ward
Dorothy Warwaruk (Seredynski '58)
Nathan Wehman
Laura Wittebolle '69
Xuedong Xu
Ziyue Xu
Richard Gregory Yost
Amanda Younka and Robert Dyce
Prudencia Yso
Rosalie Zaraspe
Malca Zettler (MacBride '64)
Ruth Zekarias
48 Anonymous

*Every effort has been made to ensure
the accuracy of donor reports, and we
apologize for any errors or omissions.
Please send correction notices to:
advancement@smamb.ca*

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to all who dedicate themselves to SMA's mission of faith-based education.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

David Ilchyna
Maintenance

Noel Rautert
Resource, Science
and Math Teacher

Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)
Mission and Charism Coordinator



RETIREMENTS

Mr. Lorne Hess, Vice-Principal of Grades 9 and 10, has retired after 31 years of dedicated service. Mr. Hess taught mathematics for 28 years before transitioning to a senior leadership role in the 2022–2023 school year. Throughout his time at SMA, he has been a remarkable teacher, mentor, and leader. We are deeply grateful for his unwavering commitment to our students, his passion for education, his steady leadership, and the joy and warmth he brought to our community. SMA extends heartfelt thanks to Mr. Hess and we pray that his next chapter is filled with peace and many joyful adventures.

IN MEMORIAM

With sorrow, St. Mary's Academy acknowledges the passing of alumnae and former faculty and staff. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Alma McCubbin '45

Mary Evans (Laramée '47)

Georgina Hodgson (Whitbread '48)

Barbara Matthew (McDill '48)

Pat Dowling (Bruton '51)

Jacqueline Robinson (Jobin '52)

Joanne Brock (Holden '54)

Kathie Andrews (Sturley '53)

Hazel Tataryn (Poirier '54)

Morna Head (Caldwell '56)

Maureen Southam (Gilmour '59)

Dianne Arnott '60

Henriette Pollon (Love '60)

Geraldine Jarvis (Doyle '63)

Beverly Hoeschen (Kisial '65)

Vivian Paul '66

Michael-Ann Connor '90

Michelle Whetter (van Rosmalen '92)

Deborah Nickel (Staff 1983-2017)

Please send 'In Memoriam' notices to
alumnae@smamb.ca

COMING EVENTS

HOMECOMING: COMMEMORATIVE YEARS' WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

Celebrating the Classes of 2015, 2005, 2000, 1995, 1985, 1975, 1965 and Earlier

HOMECOMING: MASS, TEA & TOURING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

CAREER AND MENTORSHIP: GRADE 9 CAREER SPEAKERS

OCTOBER 16, 2025

MARIAN AWARD NOMINATIONS DEADLINE: 2026 AND 2027 RECIPIENTS

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

CAREER AND MENTORSHIP: ASK AN ALUM

NOVEMBER 27, 2025

DECEMBER CELEBRATION

DECEMBER 7, 2025

DRINKS UNDER THE DOME: CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025

DECEMBER 18, 2025

OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 13, 2026

ONLINE AUCTION

JANUARY 2026

IGNITE GALA

JANUARY 24, 2026

PARENTS' GUILD 50/50 RAFFLE

FEBRUARY 2026

CAREER AND MENTORSHIP: GRADE 10 CAREER SPEAKERS

MARCH 6, 2026

INTERNATIONAL DAY

MARCH 22, 2026

CAREER AND MENTORSHIP: PANEL INTERVIEWS

APRIL 23, 2026

For more information about events, please visit smamb.ca/events/calendar

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

We're looking for passionate, community-minded volunteers to share their time and talent. Whether you can help for a single event or on an ongoing basis, you'll be making a meaningful impact in the lives of our students.

Current opportunities include but are not limited to:

SMA Athletics

Are you passionate about inspiring young athletes and fostering a love of sport? We invite you to join the SMA coaching team and help our student-athletes grow in skill, confidence, and character.

SMA Heritage Committee

Are you passionate about preserving the rich history and timeless traditions of St. Mary's Academy? We invite you to join the SMA Heritage Committee and help us celebrate the storied past of the school while also shaping its bright future.

To learn more, contact: smavolunteers@smamb.ca

St. Mary's Academy, 550 Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 0C1 | 204-477-0244 | www.smamb.ca

Follow us on    @smawinnipeg

IGNITE

A Gala Fundraising Dinner
in Support of St. Mary's Academy



A single spark can set the world aglow

JANUARY 24 | 2026

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the Academy, a powerful celebration of the limitless potential of young women and the life-changing power of education.

TICKETS ON SALE OCTOBER 15

CALL FOR SPONSORS

When you sponsor IGNITE, you stand behind every SMA student—past, present, and future—and ignite a movement. For more information about sponsorship and in-kind donation opportunities, please contact:

SMA Advancement Office | advancement@smamb.ca | 204-560-6924

