

Newsletter

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends

NEWS

February 2016

President's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk (Scerbo '77)



Lent is a holy and solemn season in the Church's liturgical year where we are all called to pause and to pray in a special and intentional way, to act selflessly or to mindfully engage in penance or fasting. Pope Francis asks

us to reconsider the essence of our Lenten journey by ensuring our practice enriches the lives of others. If we choose to fast from anything during Lent, Papa Francesco challenges us to fast from indifference towards others, in particular the poor or those among us who are in pain or struggling. "No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage to others." (Time Magazine, February, 2015.)

While fasting from this indifference, we are invited to learn to love again and to feast on love. Jesus, model of unconditional love, certainly shows us the way in his life

and ministry where all are invited to feast together.

How will you embrace your Lenten call in preparation for the Triduum and the splendour of Easter Sunday?

Kindly consider supporting the following upcoming SMA-hosted events:

Female World Sport School Challenge

From March 10 to 13 our SMA prep hockey team will compete against nine teams from across North America in this top level, Hockey Canada initiated showcase tournament. For more information please go to www.fwssc.ca.

Marian Awards For Excellence

On Saturday April 30, we will recognize two distinguished women, Sr. Marylyn Gibney, SNJM and Susanne Parent '81, who model excellence and service in their personal and professional lives. **Luncheon tickets are 75% sold out, please get yours soon.**



Sr. Marylyn Gibney



Susanne Parent '81

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Marian Awards for Excellence Luncheon

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Doors Open at 10:00 a.m.

Brunch at 10:30 a.m.

The Gates on Roblin, 6945 Roblin Boulevard
Tickets \$75 each | Tables of 8 and 10 available
Tickets available at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca
or contact

Amy Houston at ahouston@smamb.ca

Principal's Message

Mrs. Josie Audino



It is a new season in our Liturgical year-the season of Lent. We know that this is a time to reflect on how we can continue to do good deeds and truly be ready for Easter. It is also a time to simplify and slow down the pace of our lives. The Students and Staff participated in a beautiful Ash Wednesday Service which was preceded by a pancake lunch on Shrove Tuesday. Please be aware that, during lent, the Cafeteria will not be serving meat on Fridays.

SMA continues to be an action-filled community. Along with the Mid-Year Assessments in which all students participated, the Provincial English Language Arts exam was written by the Grade 12 students. We are happy to say that everyone passed the Comprehensive ELA course.

The sports activities continue with a high degree of frequency and intensity; track and field, badminton, hockey and basketball keep the majority of our students busy. The focus this month has been both on "I love to read" and mental health. Thank you to the Faculty and students who dedicate so much of their time to plan and execute many of the activities.

Earlier this month, four of us had the oppor-

tunity to attend the Global Forum on Girls' Education. At this conference there were a number of internationally acclaimed speakers, such as Gloria Steiman, Arianna Huffington and Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya. They spoke on a wide variety of subjects. Research studies continue to prove that girls who attend a Girls' school attain better results both academically and socially than those attending co-ed schools.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, February 25th and Friday, February 26th for Parent/Student-Teacher Conferences. Please encourage your daughters to come with you, if possible.

We wish you a good Spring Break and all the blessings Easter can bring!



February 2016

Message from the Board of Directors

Mr. Scott Greenlay, SMA Inc. Board Chair

It's been a busy winter, and your Board has been working on our many yearly operating activities as well as the development of a new five year strategic plan. Thank you to all who provided feedback. We have had input from parents, SNJMs, the Foundation, Alumnae, faculty, staff and students through a combination of surveys and workshops. We heard many things, representing thousands of ideas, suggestions, as well as things we can and will improve.

On February 19 and 20 our Board spent most of its weekend working with consultants to review the data gathered

and began developing the main elements of a new strategic plan. Our plan aims to include as many of the ideas and feedback we received but also address the opportunities presented by the mega trends occurring in the broader world around us. Our focus remains to do the best job possible to prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities of the future within the traditions and intent set for us by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

We are on target to have the Strategic Plan finished by the end of the school year, and will continue to update you with our progress.

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight '90)

SNJM Solidarity in Service Weekend

February 27 to 29 is **SNJM Solidarity in Service Weekend**. Each of us is invited to spend an hour or two helping others. Make it a family affair. There are plenty of opportunities in Winnipeg where you can make a difference!

During Lent we offer the following in Holy Names Chapel:

Wednesday Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m.

Mass on Fridays at 1:05 p.m.

Families are welcome to attend.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated in March with our grade 8 classes. We will also have a "Come and Go" reconciliation service for staff and students.



Presenting Sponsor

4th Annual Female World Sport School Challenge

The tournament game schedule, as well as other information can be found at www.fwssc.ca.

St. Mary's Academy is pleased to host the 4th annual **Female World Sport School Challenge** (FWSSC) taking place at the MTS Iceplex from March 10-13, 2015.

The FWSSC is in its 4th consecutive year and this is the second year that SMA has sole ownership of this Hockey Canada initiated event.

This year's tournament brings together ten North American female hockey teams from Sport Schools. Three local teams in the tournament are: St. Mary's Academy Flames, Balmoral Hall Blazers, Shafetsbury Titans. They are joined by Banff Hockey Academy Bruins (AB), Notre Dame Hounds (SK), Pursuit of Excellence (BC), Rothesay Netherwood Riverhawks (NB), Shattuck-St. Mary's Sabres U-19 (USA), St. Frances Xavier Northern Alberta Xtreme (AB), Vancouver Hockey Academy Greyhounds (BC).

Individual game tickets are \$5 each (children 12 and under are free). Tournament Passes are \$25 each. Available at the door.

In addition to showcasing elite female hockey action, the tournament weekend also features a Banquet on Saturday night with keynote speaker Dwayne Gylywoychuk, Head Coach of Canada's National Women's Development Team. Master of Ceremonies for the evening is Jill Coubrough '06, CBC Video Journalist & Host. Additionally, First Team Awards are presented during the evening.

Banquet Details

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Avenue

Tickets: \$75 each

Purchase tickets from www.fwssc.ca/banquet or contact Judy Ashcroft for details: jashcroft@smamb.ca or 204-478-6048

Volunteer for the Tournament

SMA is looking for adult volunteers to fill various positions during the tournament weekend.

Volunteer duties may include:

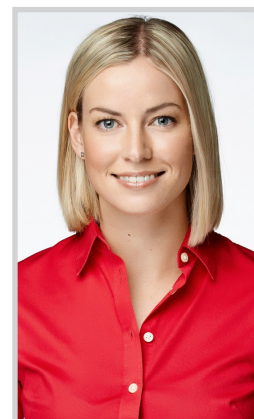
- Sales (game tickets, programs, 50-50 etc.)
- Hospitality (team nutrition etc.)
- Event Operations (game videotaping etc.)
- Game Operations (penalty box attendants etc.)
- Banquet (set-up and take-down, ticketing etc.)

For further information and to register as a volunteer, visit the fwssc.ca website.

Thank you.



Dwayne Gylywoychuk



Jill Coubrough ('06)

www.fwssc.ca



twitter.com/FWSSChallenge



[instagram.com/FWSSChallenge](https://www.instagram.com/FWSSChallenge)

February 2016

Graduation

Mrs. Vivian Epp & Mrs. Mary-Anne Lovallo (Washchyshyn '93)

Important Dates for Graduates

February 25: Grad Parents' Meeting at 7:45 p.m. in Alumnae Hall.

March 3: Sobey's orders due

March 22: First payment of \$250 due

April 28: Final payment of \$225 plus any additional expenses due. Also, due date for Brunch Seating Request form and Graduation Attendance form. Return to Mrs. Lovallo (room 201).

June 2: Parent-Daughter Mass in Alumnae Hall at 8:30 a.m. followed by Brunch at the Victoria Inn from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

June 7: Alumnae Induction after closing Mass (attended only by Graduates)

June 17: Dinner Dance at the Winnipeg Convention Centre (6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.) followed by **Safe Grad Party** at the Winnipeg Convention Centre (11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.).

June 27: Convocation Rehearsal (for students only) in Alumnae Hall 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.**

June 28: Convocation in Alumnae Hall at 1:30 p.m. Students must be at school no later than 12:30 p.m.

Art Department

Mrs. Deb Nickel

Over the past few months, the senior art students created artwork to benefit the school and the community. The **grade 12** students created original pieces of work, which were auctioned at International Day, raising \$1200 for the SMA Parents' Guild.

The **grade 11** students created pieces of artwork that were auctioned at The Nellie McClung Gala on January 28. The artwork raised \$2400 with all proceeds going to the Nellie McClung scholarship program. Photos of artwork can be found at www.smaphotos.net.

These students truly personify the spirit of sharing and caring with and for our communities. Thank you to all the students involved for their hard work.

Math Symposium

Mrs. Janet Zonneveld

On April 26 SMA is hosting a **Math Inquiry Symposium** for grades 7 and 8 students. This day long activity is a day of discovery where 20 professionals from a wide variety of career fields will share how math is a language of change and creativity in their work places. Some of our presenters will be traditional math professionals like accountants, actuaries and architect, but we also encourage presenters in non traditional math fields such as art, law, medicine, music and other professions to come and share their experience on how math fits in to their work place. Math is, at times, considered to be only about number and operation, but as we grow and learn we find out that math is more about pattern, logic, organization and decision making. This concept is at times difficult for students at the grades 7 and 8 level to understand. We hope to provide them with an opportunity to discover why and how math is important in everyday life.

Volunteers Needed

If you or someone you know would be prepared to share your experience with a small group of students please contact Mrs. Janet Zonneveld at jzonneveld@smamb.ca.

Drama News

Ms. Joy Beauchamp '80

For all parents of Drama students please note the following information and exam dates on your calendars. All exams are worth 30% of the final mark, and exams take place in our Alumnae Hall theatre.

Break a Leg to all **Grade 9** Drama students who will be presenting scenes from "The Diary of Anne Frank" for their performance exam on March 9.

The **Grade 10** Performance Exam of one act mystery plays will take place on April 14th.

The **Grade 11** Performance Exam by special arrangement of Sharon Bajer's play celebrating Nellie McClung and the 100th anniversary of the vote for women entitled "Let them Howl" on April 26th.

The **Grade 12** Performance exam of the musical "High School Musical JR." on May 26 with an extra evening performance open to all at 7 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the exams, call Ms. Beauchamp at 204-477-0244 extension 400.

Quebec Trip

Mlle. Prystanski

Quel beau voyage! The French Department brought 30 students ranging from grades 9-11 in both the Avancé and Franco Communication et Culture classes to Québec City and Montréal from February 12-16. Within the fully immersed French environment, the girls went dog sledding, snowshoeing, toured the fortified portion of Old Québec City and went to an authentic sugar shack. Our Guide delivered the French and British history of "la belle province" throughout the weekend as we passed the Plains of Abraham, place de Champlain, crossed le fleuve St. Laurent, ate at the parliament building and discovered place Jacques Cartier. The girls developed and practiced their communication skills in restaurants. We celebrated mass at Ste. Anne de Beaupré, viewed Montmorency Falls and conquered the hills of the Village Vacances Valcartier to go tubing. We also toured Montréal's Vieux Port and Mont Royal. We capped off our visit with a tour of our congregational house in Longueuil to see the tiny school house where Mother Marie Rose taught. Many thanks to Soeurs Lisette, Thérèse and Simone for our guided visit of the museum, chapel and the school house. The girls had a marvelous time and improved their French communication skills tremendously. À la prochaine!

February 2016

From the Career Counsellor

Ms. Teresa Uruski

Gr. 12 Post-Secondary Planning

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

Note the following deadline:

March 1, 2016: Application Deadline for scholarship consideration: University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba

All students who have not sent a request to Ms Uruski to mail their official school transcript to out of province post secondary institutions are reminded to do so ASAP. Details with the information of where it needs to be sent along with their assigned student number for that post secondary institution should be included in the email. Email turuski@smamb.ca

Gr. 11 Post-Secondary Information Sessions Campus Tour

Grade 11 students attended the University of Manitoba Info Days on February 18.

This event offered students the opportunity to get a tour of the U of M Campus and to find out more about the programs offered at the university. The students also received information about the advantages of becoming an affiliate of St. Paul's College at the University of Manitoba. Representatives from both the U of M and U of W also met with students on February 3 and 5 to review program and faculty options including the review of high school course requirements.

Students interested in attending the University of Winnipeg were encouraged to attend the U of W Open House on Wednesday, February 17 and Red River College on Tuesday, February 16.

Gr. 10 Career Development Classes

All Grade 10 students started their Career Development Classes in February. They will also have an opportunity with their parents to meet with representatives from the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg and

Red River College as part of SMA's annual **Post Secondary Information Evening at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24th.**

Students will be attending the Rotary Career Symposium on May 3 where they will spend the day learning about a variety of career and additional post-secondary educational opportunities. This activity is mandatory for all Gr. 10 students. Further information, along with a permission form, will be provided to students in April.

Gr. 12 Advance Placement Students

All students currently enrolled in our AP classes at SMA will receive an information package regarding the option to sign up for the Advance Placement Exams which are offered by the US College Board during the month of May. Students are asked to review this option with their teacher and parents and return their 'intent form' by March 4.

Mission Club

Ms. Teresa Uruski

Mission Club Monthly Organization Focus

During the month we are raising funds to support our SNJM Sister Schools in Lesotho, Africa. A Colour Day was hosted by the Mission Club on February 5 and raised \$1000. In addition to Colour Day, a number of homerooms have planned extra fundraising events. Our goal is to reach \$2500 which will assist in providing support for educating the children who live in the orphanage and to students living in poverty who are unable to attend school without bursary assistance. The SNJMs provide direct care for children in the orphanage along with helping countless families in need with food, medication and finances.

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



Yes you CAN Food Item Drive for Winnipeg Harvest

During the last week of February, the Mission Club will be organizing the collection of food items for Winnipeg Harvest. Students and staff are encouraged to bring in nonperishable items throughout the week. Last year we collected 650 items. This year we would like to collect 1000!

**Winnipeg Harvest
Food Drive
Feb 29 to March 4**

Track & Field

Mr. Demetro Danyluk

The Indoor track and field season is going strong with the senior team competing in 3 of 5 high school meets held at the U of M.

The junior team competed very well at its meets which are held at the U of M. All team members have shown considerable promise at 2 of the 4 meets. The team practices every day at lunch hour. If there are students who are still interested in joining in on the fun and competition, it is not too late! Stop by the Phys. Ed office and we will try to make it work. The main purpose of indoor track and field is to prepare students for the outdoor season. Outdoor track and field practices will be starting after March 17 and we will compete in a number of outdoor meets to prepare for the Provincial championships in Winnipeg (Junior) and Brandon (Senior).

February 2016

Library

Ms. Sheryl Chongva

February has been a busy month in the Du-rocher Library with 'I Love to Read Month' in full swing. The Library was packed for 'The Book Price is Right', with girls rushing through the stacks for our scavenger hunt. Thank you to our suppliers for donating books for prizes: Saunders, Scholastic, and Permabound.

Book Drive

Thanks to a competition with St. Paul's, and the generosity of our students, staff, and community, we reached our goal of 1,000 books with plenty of time to spare. Final numbers were not in at time of publishing but we're hoping to beat last year's record of 1,480. Our Book Drive benefits Gonzaga Middle School and other charities. A heart-felt 'thank you' to everyone who made this celebration so successful.

Accounting Office

Receipts for the charitable portion of tuition fees for the 2014/15 school year were mailed on February 19. If 2015/16 is your daughter's first year at SMA you will receive your first donation receipt dated December 2016 in February 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Van Raes at 204-478-6042.

Effective April 1, 2016, returned payment service charges will increase to \$20 per payment.

Advancement & Alumnae Affairs

Georgine Van de Mosselaer '83 & Amy Houston '03

An Evening at the Academy

Our inaugural **An Evening at the Academy** was held on January 30, 2016 and was a sold out success. We were thrilled to host over 300 guests at our progressive dining experience which took place at SMA - starting in the 1902 building, progressing to the 1963 dining hall and concluding in the 2015 Sheila Chipman Atrium. The effort from students, parents, alumnae and community translated to over \$50,000 for the SMA Bursary Fund. Thank you! Save the date for the 2nd Annual **An Evening at the Academy**, which will be held on January 28, 2017.

Parents' Guild

Mrs. Kristi Cumming (Stuart '89)

SMA Parents' Guild has had a busy start to 2016! The inaugural **Torch Talks** took place on Saturday, January 23. Thanks to all the parents and staff who came out to hear a morning of fantastic speakers – Dr. Mark Koltek, Dr. Mike Teschuk and Pamela Whyte. Thanks to our speakers for insight into the Teenage Brain, Relationships and Teenage Mental Health. Look for this to be an annual event.

The Parents' Guild promotional video launched at Open House on January 26. Visit the SMA website to see what activities the Guild is involved with and where the fundraising dollars go. Huge thanks to Christa Giesbrecht and Nancy Shippam for creation of this video.

Please join us at the next Guild meeting – Tuesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Teacher News

Congratulations to SMA teacher

Mrs. Catherine David on receiving a **Futures Fund Scholarship** from Canada's Outstanding CEO of the Year™. Mrs. David is enrolled in the MBA program on a part-time basis at the Asper School of Business and was chosen for this award late last year. Mrs. David and her husband attended Canada's Outstanding CEO of the Year™ Award Gala Dinner in February at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto where she was presented with the scholarship. Congratulations!



Mrs. Lidia Erickson

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The Corner Store will be open during Parent-Teacher Conferences: Thursday from 4-8 p.m. and Friday from 1-5 p.m.

New designs coming soon!

The Corner Store accepts only cash or cheques.

Dates To Note

February 2016

- 24 Pascal, Cayley & Fermat math contests
- 24 Course Options Info. for Parents, 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Grade 10 Post-Sec Info., 7:15 p.m.
- 25 2:30 p.m. dismissal (Staff mtg schedule)
- 26 No classes
- 25-26 Parent-teacher conferences
- 27-29 SNJM Solidarity in Service Weekend
- 29 Wpg Harvest Food Drive

March 2016

- 1-4 Wpg Harvest Food Drive
- 1 Parents' Guild Mtg, 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Colour day supporting disadvantaged people of Wpg/Esther House
- 8 2:30 p.m. dismissal (Staff mtg schedule)
- 10-13 Female World Sport School Challenge
- 17 Heritage Fair
- 18 Student re-registration deadline
- 21 Holy Week Prayer Service at 11:35 a.m.
- 24 Red Day for Love
- 25 No Classes, Good Friday

28-April 1 Spring Break

April 2016

- April 4 No classes, Easter Monday
- April 5 Classes resume



Spring Uniform Sale

April 20, 2016

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Spring uniforms may be worn from May 1st to Thanksgiving.

The Tartan Shop accepts Debit, Visa, Mastercard and cash.

Paint Nite

presented by the SMA Alumnae Association

Saturday, April 9, 2016

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the SMA Cafeteria
Tickets \$45

Find out more information and purchase tickets at stmarysacademy.mb.ca

Burning Bright Speaker Series

Stay tuned for information and tickets for the next installment of our Burning Bright Speaker Series, scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Around the Academy



Ash Wednesday Service in Alumnae Hall



Ash Wednesday



SMA Inc. Board of Directors



An Evening at the Academy Steering Committee



An Evening at the Academy



An Evening at the Academy Student Volunteers



Flames Varsity Basketball Team - SMA Invitational Tournament Champs



Flames Junior Varsity Basketball Team - SMA Invitational Tournament Champs



Flames Prep Team - Washington Challenge Cup Champs



Quebec Trip

Go to www.smaphotos.ca to view pictures of various SMA events