



Newsletter

NEWS

Information for St. Mary's Academy parents and friends

October 2013

Director's Message

Sister Susan Wikeem



Last month it was announced that I will be retiring as Director of St. Mary's Academy at the end of this school year. The announcement was not a surprise to the

SMA Board of Directors that has been preparing for the inevitable change for some time. Last year the Board developed a succession plan with transition to lay leadership and now the plan is being implemented.

To assist in the search for a new President, the Board has engaged Carney, Sandoe & Associates, a recruiting firm that specializes in leadership searches for Catholic and other independent schools. The search

process will begin next week when Tim McIntire, Senior Search Associate & Consultant, will visit the Academy to begin consultations with select constituents. In addition, the broader SMA community, including all current parents, will be asked to participate in the search process by completing an online survey. The link will be emailed shortly.

I am hopeful that community engagement in the search process will not only provide valuable information to the Board, but also bring life to the community as together we reflect on the school's strengths and challenges and the kind of leadership needed to achieve the Academy's Mission and Vision.

St. Mary's Academy remains a school in the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. The Sisters will continue to provide direction and service to the Academy as owners, members of various boards and committees, volunteers and class prayer partners.

We count on your prayerful support.

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Principal's Message

Mrs. Connie Yunyk



Educating and forming young women, spirit, mind and body are central to our mission at St. Mary's Academy. In addition to offering a rigorous

and enriched academic program, educating in the faith and providing varied religious experiences that inspire our students to be informed, spiritually alive, moral young women, our school promotes unique opportunities encouraging

them to develop their talents and exercise leadership.

In the fall of 2008, following discussions with students and faculty, a leadership model rooted in service was launched, creating shared leadership and shared responsibility for student life among all major school groups and clubs. Young women are encouraged to explore their true interests and talents with one or more of the major school clubs, as early as Grade 7. Displaying interest, loyalty and initiative in a school club can result in a student being asked by the teacher advisor and/or club members to consider a co-leadership role of a particular club/group in her Grade 12 year. In addition to planning and running weekly meetings

with home room representatives and possibly club executive meetings to organize school special events or to heighten awareness about certain causes, co-leaders are expected to attend and participate at weekly Leadership Council meetings. At this level, the Council discusses issues and concerns originating from the student body, troubleshoots the timing of school-wide events and awareness campaigns to encourage inter-group cooperation and maximizes participation from the student body. It is from this group of co-leaders, young women who have demonstrated leadership potential within a particular group for a number of years, that a Head Girl is elected by the student body every September.



October 2013

Grease

Ms. Joy Beauchamp



Grease is the word....

Grease, one of the most produced musical plays in the history of the theatre, is being brought back to our SMA stage this year on the following dates:

- Friday, November 29 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Grease-The High School Version, was first produced in the 2004-2005 school year back when I was still teaching drama, and Ms. Davey who was Jan in the cast, was in her graduating year. Now the torch has been passed and Ms. Davey's role as our Director and the leader of our drama team adds to the excitement as the first official school play in our newly renovated theatre gets underway. Be there to sing along with all your favourite songs and cheer on our SMA cast and crew, as we are all sure to delight in their efforts and marvel at the incredible space that the generosity of our community has provided! Get your tickets early and

take advantage of another SMA first, our first online ticket service is an easy way to purchase tickets from home and select the seats you prefer using the interactive map of Alumnae Hall! Tickets are \$14.00 and will be **available online Wednesday, October 23**. Look for the link on our webpage and in school announcements!

If there are any remaining tickets after on-line sales, they will be sold for \$12.00 at the box office on the days of the show (limited and rush seating only).

Please feel free to contact the show's producer, Martha Franz, at mfranz@st-marysacademy.mb.ca with any questions or concerns. See you at the show! Don't miss it as there are a few surprises in store!

International Day

Mrs. Kathleen Reid

The Parents' Guild signature fundraiser, **International Day** will be held on **Sunday, November 3**. Mass at 10:00 a.m. in Alumnae Hall. Pavilions open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Free Admission.

Join the St. Mary's community in celebrating its cultural diversity, complete with international cuisine pavilions, displays, rainbow auction table, bake sale, entertainment and the ever popular cash prize raffle.

Your presence at International Day is just as important as any financial contribution you may make towards the cash prize raffle.

International Day Donations & Volunteers Needed

Rainbow Auction Donation – Items are needed for the Rainbow Auction. Please contact Bobbi Jackson at bjackson@exchange.hsc.mb.ca or call 204-895-4449 to arrange your contribution.

Cash Prize Raffle: Books are \$40 each (20 tickets at \$2 each). Tickets will be on sale at International Day. Each SMA family is asked to sell a minimum of one book of tickets per student at SMA. Additional raffle ticket books can be obtained from Sister Susan's office.

International Day Volunteering: Parent volunteers play an integral role in making this special event happen each year. Volunteers are needed to work a maximum 2 hour shift the day of International Day. Sign up on the SMA website (under the parent tab, go to volunteering and click on the 'Build the Guild' icon).

Campus Ministry

Ms. Michelle Garlinski

The first major milestone was reached – THANKSGIVING! At this point, we have launched, celebrated and evaluated a number of Campus Ministry initiatives in the first 6 weeks of school. Our leadership group, which consists of over 20 Grade 8-12 students has shared their gifts in such unique and creative ways. Mother Marie Rose week was highlighted in a new way by "following MMR" on twitter and instagram. She even made a special appearance at the brunch with the Sisters and the students after our Mother Marie Rose Mass!

Together As One – our theme of the 2013 mini retrallies was a hit. Our guest facilitators Cathy Johnson and Sr. Mary Kay Kelley SSJ from Philadelphia led each grade level on separate afternoons with presentations, small group reflection, media clips and student led witness talks. These were relevant and challenged our students in aspects of

community which included friendship, their giftedness, where they are going and trust. It was a new format and a new way to celebrate our faith and community!

Praying that the gratitude we pause to acknowledge at Thanksgiving can be a way of life for all of us every day.



Retrally planning team

October 2013

Mission Trip

Ms. Janet Zonneveld

El Salvador Mission Trip Summer 2013

On June 26, 2013 three SMA staff members, Mrs. Zonneveld, Mr. Villa and Ms. Marquez, along with 16 students set out on our annual mission trip to Loma Linda El Salvador. We were energized by our anticipation of meeting and greeting all of the wonderful people in Loma Linda.

Our expectations were answered by the 50 people that met our bus on the first day that we hiked into the village. They had posters and smiles and hands-to-hold. Some sad faces wondered whether or not the past participants were going to come the next day.

Our experience included some successful projects: helping to build a storage room onto the community house, painting a school, teaching people how to use the electric sewing machine that we brought

and the ever present moving rocks to shore up some part of the village against flooding and erosion.

The 16 girls were forever positive despite a little illness. They stayed engaged during community meetings and did us proud on the long hikes to Loma Linda and La Loma. Congratulations girls and thank you for being a part of this life changing experience.



Mission Club

Ms. Teresa Uruski

Mission Statement

Help and support those in need both locally and in our global community.

This year SMA's leadership team includes Keauna Oliver-Hanna, Kristin Carlow, Sarah Scott, Hailey Weiss, Jenna Cech-Manek, Emma Reznichuk, Rachel Beazley, Tess Greenlay and Lauren Purves 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 educate all SMA students about the various Community organizations and programs that the Mission Club will be working to raise funds for. The **Classroom Education Team** will put together resources that will aim to provide detailed and tangible examples of real people in our community who need our help, not just in funds but in our actions and our prayers. This information will be presented during Religion classes through the support and guidance of our Religion teachers.

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

Charities of the month:

September: **Esther House**

October: **Rossbrook House**

November: **Villa Rosa and Pregnancy & Family Support Service.**

December: **Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre.**

January: **Holy Names House of Peace**

February: **Holy Names school and students in Lesotho Africa.**

Mission Club activity of note

On Oct 2 the Mission Club hosted Sister Joanne Pundyk SNJM from Brazil.

Sister Joanne assists women with skill development for self employment opportunities along with parenting and childcare support through a community based program.

Colour Day

On Oct 18 and Nov 22 we will be sponsoring a school wide **Colour Day** where all students will have the option to donate a toonie and not wear their uniform for the day.

If you would like to make a donation to any of these organizations, please contact Ms. Uruski at 204-477-0244.



Leadership Team with Sister Joanne (middle) and Ms. Uruski (far right)

October 2013

Volleyball

Ms. Jen O'Leary

SMA volleyball includes eight teams, composed of 90 athletes who are training and practicing with enthusiasm and dedication.

Grade 7

The Grade 7 athletes will participate in their first **Friendship Tournament** on October 23. SMA volleyball athletes: Julia Frain, Dana Plett, Haley Walton (Grade 12), Brett Whitla, Julia MacCharles (Grade 11), Darby Coughlin and Larissa Gobert (Grade 10) are committed to coaching and supporting these teams. Two more developmental tournaments are scheduled for November 4 and November 19. Stay tuned for more details.

The Grade 7 Traveling Flames team, coached by Mrs. Jen O'Leary will compete in league play which began successfully on September 30 versus Arthur A Leach.

Grade 8

The Grade 8 team, coached by Mr. Hess, has been practicing hard and looking forward to its upcoming league play on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Grade 9

The Grade 9 team, coached by Ms. McElrea, began their season with a tournament at Ecole Charleswood Junior High where they finished in first place and brought home the Gold Medal once again from the 16 team MBCI Tournament. League play began October 3, and the team will continue to work towards another Pembina Trails Athletic Association league championship. League games are Tuesday and Thursdays.

Junior Varsity

The Junior Varsity team, coached by SMA coaching veteran Leanne Leskiw and veteran club coach Deborah Chartier is currently involved in league play with the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference. They have competed in two tournaments at Miles Mac

and MBCI where they finished first. The team will host the SMA Invitational tournament on October 18-19.

Varsity

The Varsity team with long-time SMA Coaches Christine Rewniak, Tom Falconer and SMA Alumnae Taylor Tataryn are ranked in the top five for High School teams in the Province according to the MHSAS. The team began the season with a top ten showing at the Brandon Crocus Plains Tournament for the third straight year, and competed in the Lord Selkirk Tournament on September 27-28. The Varsity team will host their own tournament on October 25-26. League play continues on Monday and Wednesdays.

Thank you to all the volunteer coaches! Your dedication to improving and strengthening our volleyball program is much appreciated!

For more information on SMA Athletics please contact Jen O'Leary, Adriane McElrea or Demetro Danyluk at 204-477-0244.

Cross Country

Mr. Demetro Danyluk

Junior Team

The Junior team comprised of grade 7 and 8 students won the conference championship and placed second at the Athletics Manitoba Provincial Challenge. The team runners are CoCo Koltek, Tristan Chambers, Ashley Manaigre, Adia Duehren, Sophia Partyka, Amanda Dillon, Delany O'Hara, Maya Subramaniam. At their last conference meet of the year all competing runners finished in the top 16 and 5 of those runners finished in the top 8.

Junior Varsity Team

The Junior Varsity team consisting of grade 9 and 10 students won the conference championship, placed 2nd at the Athletics Manitoba Provincial Challenge and 2nd at Provincials. The team runners are Amanda Ludlow (Conference Overall Champion), Sierra Sutherland (2nd Overall conference champion), Tiffany Fernando, Melissa

Dreger, Madison Maurice, Adara LePage, Linnea Cox and Maia Idzikowski.

Varsity Team

The Varsity team consisting of grade 11 and 12 students are conference finalists and placed 2nd at the Athletics Manitoba Provincial Challenge. The team runners are Mady Soubry, Belinda Guerra, Anna Zryini, Elizabeth Wilde, Melissa Indome, Mackenzie Spellman, Chantale Bosc and Megan DaCosta.

Thanks to all the parents for getting athletes to practices and meets. Also, thank you to Rauno Ruus and Ingrid Sproll for their commitment to the morning practices and innovative training ideas.

Golf

Mr. James Villa

On September 20 the SMA Golf Team competed in the MHSAA Provincial Championships in Portage la Prairie.

Despite brutal conditions the team kept its scores low and won the banner with a 35 shot margin over second place!

Team members Katie McGlenen and Kathlyn Santiano had strong rounds, and graduating players Danielle Krzyszczyk and Jung Min Hong played extremely well after busy summers with little time for golf practice.

This is the fifth time SMA's Golf Team has won the championship banner in the past seven years. Way to Hold High the Torch!



October 2013

Social Networking

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie

Staying in Touch, or Losing Touch???



Today's generation is well aware of social networking. For many teenagers, it is their primary

method of communication with their peers. Their comfort with, and knowledge of the many facets of digital communication is staggering. Many adults find it difficult to remain 'on top of things' as we may not be as well-versed in this domain as our children are. A digital generation gap has become evident.

As many of us know, the speed and ease of contacting multiple people at one time is an effective way of spreading important information and staying in touch. However, it is also a way of spreading malicious, harmful information as well.

The anonymity of the digital world has given many teen users of the networks a false sense of what is appropriate or inappropriate to post. To quickly type a malicious statement, then post or send it, has become too easy. Teens are typing words, phrases, insults, spreading rumours and gossip at an alarming rate. Things are being put into print that the author would never have said to a person's face. Many

people are asking: "Are our teens losing touch with what it means to act with integrity?"

Schools throughout North America are affected by the negative use of digital social networks and digital forms of communication.

At St. Mary's Academy

We too, at St. Mary's Academy, have seen the effect this has on some of our students. What occurs in the digital world carries over to the school, into our hallways and into our classrooms. The issues are disruptive to the students' learning environments, and can, at times, compromise their sense of personal comfort and safety. **This is not acceptable to us.** Our students are aware of the possible consequences of their online activities. Where issues of inappropriate use of digital media are brought to our attention, we will attempt to resolve the issue. We will hold the people responsible accountable for their actions. We will contact parents to enlist their assistance in this process. As educators, we will assist our students to a clearer understanding of what is acceptable and not acceptable in the digital domain.

We recognise that the use of social media is a huge responsibility; we are asking girls as young as 12 to be responsible for things that are out of their realm of experience. That responsibility needs to also lie heav-

ily on parents – especially at younger ages. As parents, are you aware of:

- All the social media sites that your daughter uses?
- Do you know your daughters passwords?
- Do you check the content of her sites regularly?
- Have you chosen to put any restrictions on her mobile devices?
- Are you aware of social media sites that allow people to remain anonymous and where there is no monitoring of inappropriate content by the main company (ex: ask.fm)?

Discussion encouraged

As parents, we encourage you to discuss this topic with your daughter. We encourage you to continue being aware of what sites your daughter is using to communicate with her peers, and to closely monitor or block sites that have been, or may be used inappropriately. We encourage you to discuss with her that being an onlooker or a participant in negative chat is not acceptable – it actually empowers the original author with 'permission' to go ahead and continue being malicious.

At our recent Retrally, part of the discussions and activities focused on what it means to be a community, and what it means to communicate respectfully with one another. We know that you have chosen St. Mary's Academy because of what we stand for, and believe in. We thank you for your support on this.

Take Your Kids to Work

Ms. Teresa Uruski

On **Wednesday, November 6, 2013**, grade 9 students across the province will spend the day at a work place, job shadowing a parent, relative or neighbour. St. Mary's Academy is pleased to support this opportunity as part of our Gr. 9 career exploration program.

Our mission is to nurture partnerships among schools, businesses and communities, and to encourage caring adults to share

their expertise, talents and resources with students. This day provides a positive learning opportunity for students which is both informative and exciting. Students will have a chance to reflect on their experience in light of exploring their own career interests.

Early in October students were provided with information and permission letters for **Take Our Kids to Work Day**. Please review

these handouts and have your daughter return the signed permission form to her Career Development Class on either Oct 17, 18, 21 or 22.

If you have questions, contact Ms. Uruski, Career Counsellor at 204-477-0244 ext. 263 or by email: turuski@stmarysacademy.mb.ca

October 2013

Grade 11 and Grade 12 Students Key dates for University Planning

Ms. Teresa Uruski

October 22: Evening of Excellence: University of Manitoba (Gr. 11 & 12 students and parents) 6:30-9:00 p.m., Fort Garry Campus: University Centre. Register online: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/admissions/uminfo/evening-of-excellence.html>

November 6: National Universities Fair: St. John's Ravenscourt, 6:30 - 8:30 pm (Parents are invited) **OR**

November 7: National Universities Fair: Balmoral Hall, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Parents are invited)

November 26: Evening for Future Students: University of Winnipeg (Gr. 11 & 12 and parents) 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Riddell Hall. Register online: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/future-student-night>

December 1: (Grade 12 ONLY)

- U of W admission application deadline for students wishing to apply to major scholarships (requires a separate scholarship application).

- U of M admission application deadline for students wishing to apply for the Leader of Tomorrow Scholarship (requires a nomination from SMA and separate scholarship application).

January 15: (Grade 12 ONLY) U of M Faculty of Music admission application deadline.

February 21: (Grade 12 ONLY) U of M Early Admission Deadline for automatic Entrance Scholarship consideration based on February Gr. 12 marks.

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

Students interested in applying to schools in Canada or the USA should consult the website of that post-secondary institution for details on application deadlines before the end of October and/or see Ms. Uruski.

During October Ms Uruski will meet individually with Grade 12 students to review post-secondary plans and admission requirements.

SMA Corner Store

Check out SMA sportswear at the Cornerstore located in the cafeteria. SMA sweatpants and sweatshirts make an excellent Christmas gift.

Open every day from 12:30-1:30 except Tuesdays. You can also visit us at International Day and Parent/Teacher Conferences.

The Parents' Guild would like to hear from you

Mrs. Kathleen Reid

Every year with your generous support of activities such as International Day, the Raffle, Manitoba Lotteries bingos, the Tartan Shop and the Corner Store, the Parents' Guild has raised substantial funds. Each year the school creates a wish list of where best to use these funds to further enhance programming and the general school life of

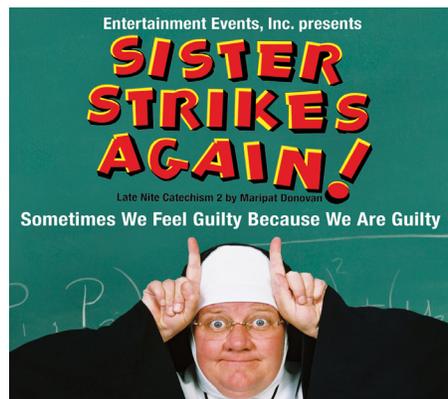
your daughter. We anticipate that there will be discretionary funds available this year, and would like to hear your suggestions for where to spend these funds. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/88xxp2r> to give us your ideas. All ideas submitted will be subject to school approval.

Sister Strikes Again

Saturday, February 1, 2014

8:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall
Tickets: \$50 each, available at stmarysacademy.mb.ca or call 204-477-0244.

This is a must see show! Beginning with an overview of heaven and hell and moving onto her proclamation of new sins for the new millennium, Sister is never hesitant to tell us where we've gone wrong. And, she provides a list of every celebrity currently sharing digs with the devil. No one is excused from Sister's firm belief that 'sometimes we feel guilty because we are guilty.'



Sister Strikes Again: Late Nite Catechism 2 is an Entertainment Events Inc. production. Based in New York City, EEI has a number of theatrical touring shows.

SMA Dates To Note

October 2013

- 23 Prayer at 8 a.m. in the Chapel
- 24 Harvest Thursday begins
- 24 Junior Dance
- 25 No Classes, SAGE
- 25-26 SMA Varsity Volleyball Tournament
- 28 9:55 a.m. start (Mass day schedule)

November 2013

- 1 All Saints Mass at 8 a.m. in the Chapel
- 3 International Day
- 6 *Take Your Kids to Work* day
- 8 Remembrance Day Assembly
- 8 Report Card Distribution
- 11 No Classes, Remembrance Day
- 14 12:35 p.m. dismissal, PT Conferences
- 15 No Classes, PT Conferences
- 18 No Classes, Staff Retreat
- 22 Colour Day
- 26 Presentation for Parents (det's to follow)
- 29 Grease, Drama Production: 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Grease, Drama Production: 7:30 p.m.
- Dec 1 Grease, Drama Production: 2:00 p.m.

October 2013

Around the Academy



Sisters and students at the Mother Marie Rose brunch



Grade 7 camp



Flames Prep - Gold medal winners of the PV AAA Female Midget Hawks Thanksgiving Classic Tournament



Grade 7 camp



2013 Athletics Manitoba Milk Challenge



Walk for Cancer



Retreat/Rally



Mother Marie Rose brunch



Una Johnstone, alumna from 1929 visits the Academy standing 1-r: Andrea Cibinel, Sister Mary, Sister Susan

