



St. Mary's Academy

AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

From the Director - Sister. S. Wikeem

I hope your family is having a pleasant summer. While students still have many days of vacation remaining, the August newsletter signals that the school office will reopen in a couple of weeks and the new school year will officially begin. Please check the SMA website for the school calendar, school supply list, parking application and Parents' Guild Volunteer form.

We welcome five new teachers to SMA this fall, all of whom are well known within our school. Three are alumnae: Mrs. Demetra Hajdiacos (Mattheos) who will teach drama and direct the senior production, Ms. Nicky Louizos who will teach math, and Ms. Laura Davey who will teach ELA, social studies and religion. Two are parents of current SMA students: Rev. Nancy Finlayson will teach religion and Mrs. Bonita Friesen will teach ELA and religion. Mrs. Friesen has been a regular substitute the past two years.

I look forward to meeting you at Parents' Night on Wednesday, September 21st. You will learn about the Academy's new Strategic Plan and receive information about school programs and activities. Following the meetings, the Parents' Guild will host a wine and cheese reception in the cafeteria. Come to meet the teachers and each other.

From the Principal - Mrs. C. Yunyk

On behalf of all faculty and staff, welcome to SMA and a fulfilling and enriching school year!

This year we are called to be a people of **JOY ...the most infallible sign of the presence of God.** This theme will permeate all aspects of school life, both in the classroom and especially during our school-wide Ret rally in October, our staff retreat in November as well as many other activities throughout the year!

Exciting news to share about the **SMA HOCKEY PROGRAM!** Plans began last year to secure sanctioned status with Hockey Canada as a Hockey Sports School. While finishing touches are being placed on the Hockey School application, a high performance AAA team will be formed (Grades 10—12 students) and will be playing in both the Winnipeg Minor loop, in exhibition games with many Hockey Manitoba teams, and several showcase tournaments throughout the year both in Winnipeg and outside of Manitoba. In addition, final plans are being made for a Hockey Skills Development Program and will be open to all students. Finally, St. Mary's will continue to field a team for the Winnipeg Women's High School Hockey League. Many thanks to **Mr. Mark Chipman, Mr. Larry Bumstead, Mr Eric Pele, Mrs. Joycelyn Pele, Mr. Dave Chell** (SMA Director of Hockey Operations) and of course, **Sister Susan** for embracing and supporting this initiative. Stay tuned for further details in late August.

Kindly read this newsletter carefully for information about school opening, student timetables, agendas, textbooks and lockers. I encourage parents to maintain open and on-going communication with the school's administration, faculty and staff. We look forward to meeting and working with each of you during the coming year. It promises to be full of wonderful challenges and opportunities!

Welcome Parents!

While your daughter is participating in the orientation for new students on **Wednesday September 7th**, please join us in the Board Room, on the second floor of the Academy, for a continental breakfast with refreshments. The room will be open at 8:15 am and parking is available in **Lot B**. You will have an opportunity to meet other parents and volunteers will be available to answer your questions and show you around the school.



Contents

Director	1
Principal	1
Uniform Sale	1
School Opening	2
General Info	2
September Events	2
Scholarships	3
Service Learning	3
Alumnae Tea	3
Grade 7 Camp	3
Corner Store	3
Music Lessons	3
Parent Evening	3
Parents' Guild	4
International Day	4

Fall Uniform Sale

September 6th & 7th

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Payment must be made by Visa, MasterCard, Debit Card or Cash. **Cheques not accepted.** If a student is coming with a parent's credit card, the student must have a note signed by the parent authorizing the student to use the card.

Starting Friday, September 9th the Uniform Shop will be open on Fridays during the lunch hour.



School Opening

New Students
Orientation Day
Wednesday,
September 7th

ALL NEW STUDENTS
meet in Alumnae Hall at
9:00 a.m.

followed by a meeting with
homeroom teachers until
10:00 a.m.

School Orientation Tours
with our
“In the Navy”
Ambassador Team
10:00—11:00 a.m.

Uniforms not required
Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.



All Students
Thursday,
September 8th

Classes Begin—Day 1

Homeroom lists will be posted at school entrances and on classroom doors. Students are to proceed directly to their homeroom at 8:30 a.m. for opening exercises, timetable and agenda distribution and locker assignment. Full winter or summer uniform is required. Bring school supplies.

General Information

Update from Administration— Mrs. Connie Yunyk will be responsible for all activities and academic program for students in Grades 7, 11, and 12. Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie will be responsible for all activities and academic program for students in Grades 8, 9, and 10.

School Calendar – a calendar of major events is available on the SMA website. The calendar outlines important dates including two major assessment periods in December/January and June. All students are expected to be present during the assessment periods. A doctor's certificate is required to verify illness or absence during the assessment periods. Parents are asked NOT to book holidays or time away from school during these periods. If a student misses a mid-year assessment it will affect the value of their final exam.

The **school-wide Retrally** and **school Liturgies** are important mandatory community-building events for all students. Kindly become familiar with the school calendar and do not make any appointments on these dates.

Student Timetables, Student Agendas, lockers and locks – will be distributed during the homeroom period (8:30 a.m.) on Thursday, September 8, 2011. The agenda includes the school calendar, general school information, policies and procedures, and student information. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this information.

Textbooks – On the first day of classes, subject teachers issue numbered textbooks to each student in. Each assigned textbook is the responsibility of the student to whom it is assigned. In June 2012, students are responsible for returning assigned textbooks in accordance with the following procedures:

Non-exam courses - to the subject teacher at the last class

Exam courses - prior to the final exam in a designated classroom.

Students who do not return textbooks as indicated or who have damaged or lost textbooks must pay the replacement cost and a \$25.00 fine by June 27, 2012.

On the SMA Website – www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca

- 2011-2012 school calendar
- school supply list
- parking application
- this August newsletter



September Events

Opening Mass – Opening School Mass will be on **Friday, September 9th at 2:00 p.m.** in Alumnae Hall. Parents welcome!

Grade 9 Welcome Day—Friday, September 16th — Workshops and activities are being planned to facilitate the transition for all Grade 9 students. All students are strongly encouraged to stay to the end at 10:00 p.m. Specific details and permission forms will be distributed the first week back to school.

The Grade 12 Retreat is planned for **Monday September 19** (details to follow). This is a regularly scheduled school day at an off-site location and **attendance is mandatory**. Please note that the day will end at approximately 7:30 p.m. with Liturgy—parents are strongly encouraged to attend.

Parent Information Evening—Wednesday, September 21st — 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall. At that time you will have the opportunity to meet your daughter's teachers, the Administration team and members of the Parents' Guild.

Walk for Cancer — St. Mary's Academy students will be participating in the annual Walk for Cancer on **Thursday, September 22nd**. A \$10.00 flat fee will be collected from each student for a donation and to defray costs for student-led activities. Further information will be provided to students in early September.

Christine Skublics Scholarships and Awards

Each year scholarships are given in memory of Mrs. Christine Skublics who was a teacher at St. Mary's Academy and our Principal from 1985-1990. The students awarded these scholarships have obtained the highest academic average for their particular grade level.

Recipients of the Christine Skublics Scholarships are:

- Grade 9 – Raven Rickner
- Grade 10 – Natalie Desaulniers
- Grade 11 – Kennedy Meier

Recipients of the Christine Skublics Award for second and third highest in each grade are:

- Grade 9 – Jodi Kristjanson
Sophie Poirier Cole
- Grade 10 – Megan Bourns
Ariana Fiorentino
- Grade 11 – Laura Enns
Rachel Nickel

Service Learning @ SMA

Service learning is realizing that service is not about what we do – it is about who we are. We will continue to live this dimension of our mission in the coming school year. It begins by identifying needs in the community, church or school; actively responding to these needs; and reflecting on the experience.

Service learning for 2011-2012 will include **ALL** students from Grades 7 to 12. Students are welcome to start planning or serving at their site before the school year begins. A **Service Fair** is being planned at the school for Thursday, September 29th 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. featuring service organizations from around Winnipeg. Please refer to the website for the brochure, reflection questions, necessary forms for parents and service site supervisors, and possible service learning sites.

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us. (R.W. Emerson)

Where could your gifts serve those in need?

Grade 7 Camp

Grade 7 students will be at Camp Arnes from **Wednesday, October 12th to Friday, October 14th**. Camp is a community-building and enriching experience. Students will be supervised by Camp Arnes staff, SMA faculty and Grade 11 student camp counsellors.

The cost of attending camp will be approximately \$225.00. An information package will be sent home in September with your daughter.



Parent Evening with Anna Scally

**Sunday October 2nd
7:00 p.m. - Alumnae Hall**

**Mark your calendar
More information to follow**

Alumnae Tea

The SMA Alumnae Association will hold its Annual Tea on **Sunday, September 25th**. All former students, parents, families, and friends of past and present students are invited. Mass at 12 o'clock in Alumnae Hall followed by the Tea in the cafeteria until 3:30 p.m.



This is a great opportunity for new students to introduce their extended families to their new school.


Corner Store News

Come and see our wide variety of sportswear as well as SMA charms at the Corner Store open school days (except Tuesdays) from 12:30-1:30 p.m. starting Sept. 19th. The SMA website showcases our merchandise. We accept gently used uniforms, white shoes and gloves (for Convocation). Sportswear will be available at the Uniform Sale Sept 6th & 7th. We remind parents and students that we accept cash or cheques only.

Looking forward to seeing you throughout the school year.

Private Music Lessons

If you are interested in private piano, music theory, or beginner guitar lessons at the school please call for further information:

Sister Josephine Chudzik
direct line 
284-3309.

International Day Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011

International Day is the Parents' Guild largest fundraiser of the year. It is similar to Folklorama with delicious ethnic food, displays and entertainment.

Some pavilions are confirmed for this year we are still looking for a few more pavilions. If you would like to share your cultural background please contact **Bonnie Cadieux** intday@stmarysacademy.mb.ca Kits are available to start you off with lots of support along the way.

There is also a raffle, a Rainbow Auction, home baking to take home and delightful entertainment and wandering minstrels.

The event is open to the SMA community and the public.

An event of this magnitude requires considerable commitment from our SMA parent community. Many volunteers are required. Time commitments vary with the task.

Please take time to complete and return the online volunteer form to the school.



From the Parents' Guild – Mrs. Nicola Guttormson, President

Welcome to all parents of St. Mary's Academy students. We encourage each of you to attend our Guild meetings. These meetings provide parents with the opportunity to meet other parents and are a wonderful way to stay connected with the school. You can learn more about the school and community life of St. Mary's Academy by working with the Guild to help plan and organize fundraising and school social events. Meetings generally last one and a half hours and Sister Susan always provides us with coffee and treats.

Our first meeting of the school year will be held on Tuesday, September 13th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Durocher Library. Parents enter the school through the Alumnae Hall doors.

Please mark your calendar with the following dates of our 2011 - 2012 Parents' Guild meetings.

- Tuesday September 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. (AGM)
- Tuesday October 4, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday December 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. (Meeting and Christmas celebration)
- Tuesday February 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday March 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. (Call for nominations and nominating committee)
- Tuesday May 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. (Results announced)
- Tuesday June 5, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. (Meeting and windup)

Congratulations to all SMA parents for a very successful 2010 - 2011 fundraising year. The Parents' Guild raised just under \$60,000! This money was used to enhance our daughters' school life in the following ways:

- A student agenda for each student
- Financial support for student education enrichment activities
- Financial support for the Bursary Fund
- Parents' Guild Academic scholarship (to a graduating student)
- Parents' Guild School Citizenship Award (to a graduating student)
- A gift for each graduate
- Hospitality and catering for the staff appreciation luncheon
- Hospitality at open house for prospective students and their families
- Hospitality for new parents at the carnival
- Three potters' wheels for art
- Library screen and Library furniture
- One document camera
- Blu-ray DVD player for the fitness room
- Spectrometer for science and Precision balance for science
- Equipment – volleyball tutor
- Eight Wacom tablets for art
- Smartboard
- Computer presentation station
- Summer Bear Dance group for social studies
- Display monitors for the fitness room

THANK YOU

We look forward to meeting you and having another successful year.