



St. Mary's Academy

December 2006 Newsletter

Volume I

Number 2



On December 1, 2, and 3, over 90 St. Mary's Academy students were involved in the school production of *Nunsense II: The Second Coming*. We were so proud of all of the girls as they sang, danced, acted, sewed costumes, ushered, built

props, sold tickets, served juice, worked on make-up, did the sound and lights, stage managed, and assistant directed - all with great accomplishment. A special thank you to the Senior 4 Art students for their work on the set and the beautiful fans adorning the stage, hallways, windows and cafeteria.

Our sincere appreciation goes to: Mrs. D. Nickel for her 'fan'tastic vision, guidance and support of the Art students; Mrs. V. Epp and Mrs. C. Villa for their hard

work and creativity in costuming; Mrs. J. Ferguson and Mrs. B. Lucas for their careful supervision of PR and ticket sales; Ms. K. Mikula and Mr. M. Curtis for their wonderful work on sets and props; Ms. M. East and Mr. C. O'Donoghue for the great sound and lighting; Mrs. L. Ryz for the great looking program; and Alix Kendall for her dedication to the dances. *Nunsense II* was enjoyed by over 1,200 patrons, due in no small part to the tremendous efforts of the director Ms. J. Thibedeau-Silver and the producer Ms. J. Beauchamp - Bravo! We would also like to thank Mr. R. Kuklik, the music director, for sharing his talent and amazing artistry with the students and the appreciative audiences.

A special thanks to all staff at SMA and all the family members of the students involved in the production - we truly could not have done it without your support.

The Lesotho Project "Education a Gift We Share"

This project has been an incredible experience to have participated in! This quiet campaign has brought forth a steady show of support from our SMA community for our brother and sister Holy Names schools in Lesotho, Africa. Everyday faithful students from many grades have appeared in classroom 304 to fill gift card orders, not as an arranged club, just students who were moved to help and did so. We were struck by the students' sincere desire to help and interest to learn more about students who, while far away, are part of our SNJM community, an SNJM community that has watched in sorrow while our Sisters have struggled in Lesotho with their incredibly difficult challenges.

Faced with desperate circumstances, the chance to go to school for a Lesotho HIV/AIDS orphan is small. In a country where the average wage according to Sister Vera is about \$1.90 CDN a day, even families

unaffected by AIDS/HIV find it very difficult to offer this opportunity to their children once government funding stops at grade 8.

So last summer when the sisters from Lesotho were asked how we here in Canada could help them, the sisters sent a clear message. Send our children to school. School is where a future can begin, friendships can be nurtured and a community can be born.

Our School Gift Card campaign is now finished and to date we have raised over \$10,000.00. Perhaps more importantly, our awareness of our Lesotho schools has been raised, and our hearts and our prayers extended. A big thank you again to those faithful students, Ms. Le Maitre and the SNJM Provincial Administration team who have worked behind the scenes on this program, and to our artist Erin Leslie for her lovely gift card design.

A Time of Waiting - Message from the Principal

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart. James 5:7

Waiting is an integral part of our daily lives: we wait for a ride each morning for school, we wait for the phone to ring, we wait in line at the mall, we wait for results on tests and assignments, and we wait for a baby to be born. Longing for something and working hard for it is the nature of human life. Sometimes waiting can be boring; often we get tired of waiting. Sometimes we anticipate a joyful end to our waiting.

The celebration of waiting, of coming and of desiring

more is central to the Advent and Christmas season. Consciously or unconsciously, we wait for the birth of Jesus as an opportunity to experience a spiritual waiting. His Spirit fills us with the desire that makes it possible for us to wait more patiently and with hope, to discover new ways to experience His presence in our lives. As we wait for Christ's coming in us, in others and the events of each day, may our openness to His coming help transform our world through his Love.

Merry Christmas and a Joyful, Healthy 2007!

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Dates to Note:

<i>Dec. 15 - 2:30 p.m. Dismissal</i>
<i>Dec. 22 - Christmas Service 11:30 am</i>
<i>Dec. 25 - Jan. 5 - Christmas Break</i>
<i>Jan. 8 - Classes Resume</i>
<i>Jan. 9 - 12 - S4 ELA Standard Exams</i>
<i>Jan. 12 - 2:30 p.m. Dismissal</i>
<i>Jan. 18 - SMA Open House 7:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Jan. 24 - Feb. 2 - Exam Period</i>
<i>Feb. 7 - 8 - S2 Retreat</i>
<i>Feb. 9 - 2:30 p.m. Dismissal</i>
<i>Feb. 15 - Fr. Mark Miller 7:00-9:00 p.m. (see pg. 4)</i>
<i>Feb. 16 - Catholic Schools In-Service No School</i>
<i>Feb. 20 - S1, S2, S3 Pascal, Cayley and Fermat Exams</i>
<i>Feb. 21 - Ash Wednesday Assembly</i>

The January 2007 Exam Timetable has been inserted for your information

The Rotary Club of Winnipeg is once again hosting the

CAREER SYMPOSIUM

at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on

April 11 & 12, 2007

This is a wonderful opportunity for students and their parents to explore the various options regarding their future careers. There will be many exhibitors and educational institutions ready to answer all your questions.

Our S1 students will be attending on **April 12, 2007**, afternoon session only.

More information to be forthcoming in February.

For more information call Mrs. Beaucage-Pena at St Mary's Academy or check the Website at: www.career-symposium.org.

Special Opportunity for SMA Students

MYERS BRIGGS SEMINAR

Learn and understand how your gifts influence:

- How you relate to other people
- How you learn
- How you live your life
- Your career choices
- Your interests

Seating is limited to 18 students for this learning experience. The session will be facilitated by Greg Genik of Right Management Consultants.

**Saturday, March 10, 2007
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

There is no charge. Questions and reservations may be made by contacting Mrs. Beaucage-Pena at 478-6044.

From the Director's Desk

Thank you to all of the students, convenors, volunteers, faculty, and staff who made the SMA Amnesty Dinner, International Day and the drama production so successful. Spirits are high and the coffers are full.

I am sorry to announce that Mr. Murray Curtis will be leaving SMA at the end of December. I thank him for his contribution to the school the past five and a half years and wish him well in his future endeavours. Mrs. L. MacKenzie, who joined the SMA staff in October, will pick up Mr. C. Murray's computer courses and continue to teach math. She is an SMA alumna and an experienced teacher.

Mrs. M. Klus has returned from MAT leave and so we say goodbye and thanks to

Ms. K. Carman who has completed the term position.

Please spread the news that the Information Evening and Open House for interested students is early this year - January 18th. It is on the school calendar and will be in parish bulletins and various newspapers.

Advent is upon us — a time to *prepare the way of the Lord*. Hamper preparations began last week and today, beautiful music fills the chapel where an Advent New Beginnings Service is in progress. May this Advent season bring you a renewed sense of God's presence and love and may your family have a joy-filled Christmas and a year of blessings.

International Day 2006, a Huge Success!

The blessing of beautiful weather brought steady crowds throughout the day to this terrific family and school fundraising event. Food, fun and fabulous entertainment were enjoyed by all attending as we celebrated our cultural mosaic at St. Mary's Academy. This year, record profits of approximately \$18,500.00 were realized.

As in years past, the success of this event was due to the hundreds of volunteers who gave so freely of their time, talents and treasure and to all who attended.

THANK YOU to Sister Susan and Ms. J. Ashcroft for their generous support and assistance with organizing this event, to the teachers and support staff for the use of photocopiers and AV carts, to all of the committee members and convenors, ticket sellers, set-up crew, entertainers, cultural display artists, liturgy committee, phoners, prize basket creators, crafters, perogy pinchers,

halopchi rollers, chefs, bakers, table wipers, parking attendants, sweepers, money counters, cleaners, crust makers, candy makers, knitters, salad tossers, passport stampers, stage hands, maintenance staff, flag hangers, greeters, henna artists, minstrels, kitchen stuff, coffee pourers, and tasters.

Congratulations to all of the girls in Class 8-1. They were the top class in ticket and passport sales, selling \$630.00 of raffle tickets and 47 passports!!! Each student will enjoy a complimentary manicure from Scientific Marvel School. THANK YOU! We are truly grateful to you for all of your hard work.

The top three ticket and passport sellers in the school were: Kristina Vannan (8-1) \$120.00, Alessandra Mandaliti (8-1) \$100.00 and Katelyn Whidden (12-1) \$70.00 THANK YOU! We are grateful to you for all of your hard work and hope that you enjoy your 'Day at the Spa' from Scientific Marvel School.

Quest for Volleyball Success

Five teams, 95 athletes and 7 coaches have neatly folded and put away volleyball uniforms, stored knee pads on the top shelf and hung up their volleyball court shoes. As of December 9th, the 2006 St. Mary's Volleyball season came to a close. All teams experienced a wide variety of success and positive experiences on and off the court whether it be establishing new relationships or maintaining old ones; learning about volleyball extensively; and developing active healthy lifestyle practices. Here is a run-down of how our teams finished their season.

Ear plugs were a necessity as 45 Grade 7 students participated in 3 developmental, friendly tournaments within the Pembina Trails School Division. The Grade 8 team participated in the "A" division within their league and reached the playoffs with ease. The Grade 9 team finished in the top four

within their league and lost in the quarter-finals of the Grade 9 Provincial Championships. The Junior Varsity team won the Bronze medal in the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference League Championships and advanced to the Provincial Championship after winning a wildcard match against River East. The Varsity Team advanced to its West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Playoffs and fought a hard battle against Westwood.

An overwhelming amount of time, effort, commitment and dedication were devoted to our 2006 Volleyball program. The Athletic Department would like to thank everyone who supported the athletes and coaches in their quest for success. If you have any questions, concerns or if you are interested in getting involved in our programs please don't hesitate to call.

Arguing the Issues

Congratulations to the participants in the various debating tournaments we have been involved in over the past month.

In early November, we participated in two tournaments in Montreal, Quebec. First, we were involved in the High School Tournament hosted annually by McGill University, and then we debated in the North American Championships hosted by Trafalgar School. Our girls did a great job representing the school and the city at both of the tournaments. The team consisted of three Grade Ten teams: Susanne Morrill/Emily Ashley, Samantha Hale and Andrea Jackson, Kirstyn Koswin and Kayla Ketcheson, and one Grade Eleven team: Gianna Minenna and Alexandra Prior. Congratulations to Alexandra who was our top debater at McGill and Kirstyn who was our top debater at the Nor-Ams. A special thank you goes out to team coach Mr. J. Burg and our two

mother chaperones, Mrs. J. Jackson and Mrs. L. Strachan.

We participated in two local tournaments in November as well, including the Rupert's Land Public Speaking Tournament and the Nationals Qualifier Tournament. Congratulations go out to the Grade Twelve team of Catherine Metrycki and Andrea Wilson who made the Provincial Team that will be participating in the National Championships which will be held in Toronto in March. They came in fourth overall in the province, as did Andrea in the individual category with Catherine placing twelfth.

Other debaters in these tournaments included Alanna Murray and Katina Mikos. Thanks to our volunteer alumni and parents who came out as judges!

SMA Mission Club

Reps from each of the homerooms work along side Kara Nadeau (president), Christine Lam (vice), Jessica Enns (secretary) and Dayna Erlendson and Genevieve Boken (treasurers). They are a good bunch and very committed.

Besides our weekly collections, we have supported two campaigns: the United Way and UNICEF (for schools in Tanzania). Presently we are busy with our Christmas Hampers. These will go to those individuals who attend the

Immaculate Conception Drop In, a soup kitchen in the inner city. Each student has been given a sheet with the necessary information. We have no doubt that they will be generous yet again. Thank you for your support. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas.



'Twas the weeks before Christmas...

Advent is the season of preparing, waiting, joy and hope, what a wonderful season! Advent marks the beginning of our Liturgical new year and like the seasons of the calendar year, our church seasons have unique, defining characteristics.

Since our last newsletter, we have been busy with the Grade 9 retreat (Prayer the O.C.), school liturgies, Club L.E.M.O.N., International Day, and Wednesday morning prayer. Still to come before Christmas break - a lunch hour Reconciliation service, the choir trip to the Sisters of the Holy Names residence in St. Boniface to sing

Christmas carols, and an opportunity to spread that cheer with our own school on the last day of classes.

As we look to what is on the horizon we see two very exciting events. St. Mary's will be hosting the city-wide Public Way of the Cross Good Friday morning (in collaboration with Holy Rosary Church). Watch for details about how you can be involved! Our Catholic Studies trip to St. John's University in Collegeville, MN runs from May 19-23. There will be a parent/student information meeting early in the new year.

SMA Peer Counsellors

Our 15 Peer Counsellors for this year are: Emilie Cook, Mira Zmiyiwsky, Laura Kiernan, Anne Coughlin, Julia Genik, Catherine Metrycki, Isabella Supel, Sara Craven, Stephanie George, Stephanie Chung, Mel Love, Christine Lam, Adela Strycharz, Breanna Mulhall, and Laura Danyluk. These young ladies had a training workshop in October and each peer counsellor has been assigned to a Grade 7, 8, or 9 classroom.

The peer counsellors are helping in areas such as making new friends, adapting to a new school, time management, bullying issues, etc. All members of the team have been trained in communication, listening skills, values, and confidentiality. The counselors are also looking at ongoing issues at St Mary's Academy. If you have questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Beaucage-Peña at 478-6044 anytime.

*Ever notice how we quickly
tear the wrapping off the
gift or dig into the bag and
barely spend any time
savoring the "unwrapping"?
This Christmas, leave this
prayer on the fridge or on the
table to remind everyone
that we need to slow down
and enjoy the gift and each
other.*



Opening gifts

*Let me just for a
moment, Lord, hold
this time in my heart.
It is about mysteries
and gratitude,
unknowing and wrong
sizes, snippets of
ribbon and screams
of delight.*

*Help me to remember
the immense love you
have for each of us in
this room and for those
who can't be here.*

*With each gift that is
opened, no matter how
perfect or not, let me
feel again the many
ways you gift us each
day, especially with
your presence in our
hearts and the
presence of each other
in our lives.*

Christmas Wish

The Christmas season is quickly approaching and our time of anticipation is drawing to a close. Each person in our school community, is waiting anxiously for the special day when we celebrate the birth of the Jesus, the Light that dispels the darkness.

Our fondest wish is that the light of life shine brightly for you while you celebrate this joyous and blessed season.

We look forward to working with you and your daughters in the New Year.

Merry Christmas!

Staff of SMA

Father Mark Miller, PhD,
Moral Theologian from Saskatchewan
will discuss

*Understanding Health Care
Directives in the Context of
Our Catholic Faith*

February 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Alumnae Hall, St. Mary's Academy

All are welcome.

Accounting Office

Charitable donation receipts for the **2005-2006** school year, for inclusion with your **2006** tax return, are being prepared and will be mailed in late January. Receipts for the **2006-2007** school year, for inclusion with your **2007** tax return, will be issued in **January 2008**.



If your daughter (s) received a bursary and/or scholarship for the **2006-2007** school year, we will be issuing a T4A in your daughter's name. Look for these slips in your mailbox in January.

SMA Uniform Shop

Friday, December 15th will be the last day the uniform shop will be open before Christmas holidays. The uniform shop will re-open on Friday, January 12, 2007. Our hours over the lunch break are 12:35 – 1:35 p.m. The shop will not be open January 26, or February 2, 2007.

Mark your calendars, the **SPRING UNIFORM SALE** will be held **April 10, 2007** from **5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**. Please note that the school year calendar has an incorrect date for the Spring sale.

Please remember that you can pay with cash, debit card, Visa or Mastercard. **Cheques are not accepted.** If students are paying with a parent's credit card they must have the actual card and a note signed by the parent authorizing the student to use the card.

The accounting office will be closed
between

Christmas and New Years Day.

If you need to contact us during the
Christmas break,

Ms. B. Van Raes will be available as
follows:

Tuesday, January 2nd - Friday, January 5th
at 478-6042

Preauthorized tuition payments will be
withdrawn from your account on
January 2, 2007.

Nunsense II Raffle

In keeping with the rules set out by the Manitoba Gaming Control Commission, we are publishing the winners of the raffle. All proceeds will go to the Drama Club. Thank you for your support.
Licence #: MGCC 4109-RF

Winner's Name	Ticket #	Prize Awarded
T. Boughen	513504	Screen
C. Rippen-Sisler	513513	Bridge



St. Mary's Academy Night

Saturday, February 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

The Manitoba Moose VS. The Syracuse Crunch

Only \$20 per person

For tickets, please contact:

Mrs. McGowan at 478-6030
dmcgowan@stmarysacademy.mb.ca

OR Mrs. Yunyk at 478-6033
cyunyk@stmarysacademy.mb.ca

These tickets would make a great Christmas gift.

This event helps support many SMA activities throughout the year.