



St. Mary's Academy

December 2011

From the Director - Sister S. Wikeem

The fall term has certainly been the best of times for our school community — 3 provincial high school athletic championships (golf, cross country and volleyball); WE Day; International Day; and The Wizard of Oz. As well the School Board launched a new Strategic Plan to set direction for the future. SMA can take pride in its talented students, dedicated staff and generous volunteers. Thank you one and all.

At the recent drama production I took the opportunity to tell parents about our plans for the upgrades to Alumnae Hall and the new theatre production expansion. Design is almost complete.

You can view the architectural renderings on the SMA website.

More information will be forthcoming in the new year.

Applications for new students for September 2012 should be submitted in January or by February 17th at the latest. There will be an Information Evening on January 26, 2012 for prospective students and their parents. Please spread the word to your friends and acquaintances.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and God's richest blessings in the New Year.

From the Principal - Mrs. C. Yunyk

Blessings and greetings to everyone!

This is indeed a wonderful time of the year! Our school community is proud of accomplishing so much since September. At the extra-curricular level, our sports teams have held high the torch with three provincial championship banners in **Varsity Golf, Varsity Cross-Country Running and Varsity Volleyball**, our school musical production **The Wizard of Oz** was exceptional with a cast consisting of students in Grades 7 - 12, our debate teams continue to shine, our performance choir **Con Fuoco** will be performing with Steve Bell on December 18 and our major school clubs and teams continue to plan and implement purposeful activities for the entire student body.

As I write this message our students are preparing for the mid-year assessments (schedule posted on SMA website) starting in December and ending on January 20, 2012. All assessments are common and cumulative in nature worth 15% of your daughter's final grade for students in Grades 9 - 12 and for students in Grades 7 and 8 the value is 10% of their final grade. Kindly remember not to book family vacations during this time, as a

missed assessment may adversely affect your daughter's progress and growth. If you have any questions or need clarification, please call me at 478-6033 or email me at cyunyk@stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

Young women bringing JOY to our friends in Loma Linda, El Salvador!

A wise person once said: *I slept and dreamed that life was joy...I awoke and saw that life was service...I served and understood that service was JOY.* What greater testament to our charism and mission at SMA that in July 2012, twenty-four students in Grades 10, 11 and 12, along with teacher supervisors Ms. Catherine Marquez, Mrs. Connie Yunyk and Mr. Dennis Kuzenko (coordinator) will have an opportunity once again to travel to El Salvador and in particular to the village of Loma Linda. Kindly keep this group of students in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to prepare themselves to bring joy and hope to our sisters and brothers in El Salvador.

Wishing you all God's abundant blessings during this season of faith, joy, love and hope! Merry Christmas and may you all have a **JOY-filled** 2012!

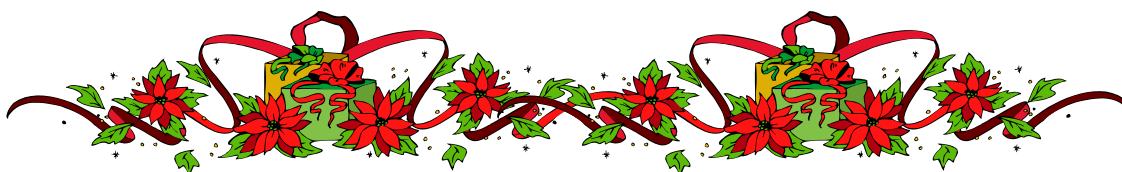
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Dates to Note:

- Dec 22: Early Dismissal 12:35 pm
- Jan. 9: Classes Resume
- Jan. 10-13: Gr 12 ELA Provincial Standards Test
- Jan 12-17: Individual Grad Photos
- Jan 16-20: Mid Year Assessment
- Jan 26: Open House 7:00 pm
- Jan 27: No Classes Admin Day
- Jan 27-29: Lion King in Minneapolis
- Feb 7: Grad Group Photos, Individual Grad Photo Retakes, Course option and Post Secondary Info evening 7 pm
- Feb 6-10: Winnipeg Harvest Food Collection
- Feb 9: Report Card Distribution
- Feb 14: Early Dismissal 2:30 pm
- Feb 15: P/T Conferences 5-9 pm
- Feb 16: No Classes
- P/T Conferences 1:30-8:30 pm
- Feb 17: No Classes Catholic Schools' Day
- Feb 20: No Classes Louis Riel Day
- Feb 22: Ash Wednesday
- Feb 21-24: La Semaine Française



From the Career Counsellor - Ms. T. Uruski

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. 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.



Invitation

Everyone is invited to join us for Wednesday morning Mass or prayer starting at 8:00 a.m. in Holy Names Chapel.



Take Our Kids to Work Day

Thank you to all parents, hosts and students who contributed to the success of 'Take Our Kids to Work Day' on November 2nd. Over one hundred Grade 9 students participated in the day which provided them with an opportunity to gain exposure to the skills required in today's workplaces and to begin career discussions with adults about the work they do. This day was created through the philosophy that awareness leads to knowledge. The more students understand about the job of their parents and relatives, the more informed the decisions about their own future career will be. As a follow-up to the day, in our Career Development Class, students continued to reflect on their skills, interests and values. Each student will prepare and present a 'Me Box' as a final project during our last class in January.

Post-Secondary Planning

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

Please note the following deadlines:

February 24, 2012 -

Early Application Deadline: University of Manitoba

March 1, 2012 -

Early Application Deadline: University of Winnipeg

(Ms. U. will be offering 'Online Application Workshops' during the last week in January or students can access the Self Directed Guide on the SMA Career Info website)

Grade 11 Students Attend a 'Planning for Your Future' Session

During November, Gr. 11 students attended an information session presented by Ms. Uruski which provided an overview of Post Secondary options and details about the Advanced Early application process at the U of M and U of W based on Gr. 11 final marks. In January all students will attend a '**Scholarship & Volunteering Workshop**' to learn more about available scholarships, requirements and application tips along with hearing about the value of spending more time volunteering in the community. Students will be guided in preparing a '**scholarship resume**' which will be email to Ms. Uruski by **Feb 15th**. Details of this assignment and a copy of the presentation will be available on the SMA Career Information website for future reference.

Campus Tours

Grade 11 students will also be attending the **University of Manitoba Info Days on February 23. Attendance is mandatory** as this event offers students the opportunities to not only get a tour of the U of M Campus but also to find out more about the programs offered at many universities across the country. The students will also receive information about the advantages of becoming an affiliate of St. Paul's College at the U of M. Watch for parent permission forms and more information to come home in late January.

Campus Ministry - Ms. M. Garlinski

Advent greetings! This is the LONGEST Advent we will have as we experience almost the full time here at school. Conversely, we come back on January 9 which is the LAST day of CHRISTMAS! We began Advent with our celebrations in the Holy Names Chapel. At this time we stopped to recognize the JOY that we can offer to one another. Not to be confused with pleasure – but true JOY touches the depths of our hearts and inspires us to share that JOY with others. Our theme for Advent is JESUS is our JOY. What can we do to bring JOY to others this Advent so that when we celebrate the birth of the Christ-Child once again our hearts and homes will be ready?

As a community, we have shared JOY by supporting the Volleyball finals and attending the Wizard of Oz. We have made our Christmas hampers for Im-

maculate Conception and wrapped gifts for Villa Rosa. We gathered for Taize prayer on Wednesdays, shared common Advent prayers in the classroom, and offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We rejoiced through music with the gifts of Con Fuoco and Steve Bell at our Songs of the Season evening. There are so many other ways to share JOY and each of us in our own way, must look inside and decide, how do I share the JOY of JESUS this HOLY season and ALWAYS?

Although this is also a difficult time for many remembering those who have died, struggle to find work or suffer from illnesses, may the peace of JESUS, who is our JOY be with you now and throughout 2012!

Cross Country Running - Mr. D. Danyluk

Congratulations to the St. Mary's Cross Country Running Team. Every participant improved and played an important role in helping the team succeed. We had an amazing year with student athletes from Grades 7 to 12 working hard in the morning practicing, attending practices at Garbage Hill on Saturday mornings and/or doing workouts on their own. Thank you to the parents who did whatever they could to make it possible for them to train and to compete at all the various meets. The extra help and coaching from Rauno Ruus was also much appreciated. His support helped the season run smoothly. The dedication and commitment to excellence from everyone involved helped us win the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Cross Country Provincial Championship held back in October out in Spruce Woods Provincial Park. Over 1200 students competed at this year's provincial championship. Not only did the team perform very well as

a team, but so did we individually with first five runners finishing in the top 20 and the remaining runners contributing. To find out more information about the provincial event you may go to <http://mhsaa.e-crew.ca/page.cfm?s=28&>

In closing, this year St. Mary's had the responsibility of convening Cross Country Running for the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference. This task required many volunteers from the physical education staff and the student body. To say the least, "A job well done"! We received many compliments from many of the schools involved in the meets. Thank you to everyone for their support of the program.



Go Flames Go - Mr. Chell



The St Mary's Academy Hockey program has once again two teams this year, one is a AAA Prep team comprised mainly of members of last year's very successful High School 'A' Division team which narrowly lost out to Oak Park in the City Championship finals last year. The other is comprised of last year's

B Division team as its core group coming back, who moved up to the 'A' Division this year.

The coaches and team managers have been very impressed with the overall improvement and commitment of the players and look forward to a strong finish heading into the second half of the season.

Volleyball on Fire - Mrs. J. O'Leary

8 teams, 80 athletes, 2 teachers and 15 volunteers are neatly folding and putting away volleyball uniforms, storing knee pads on the top shelf and hanging up their volleyball court shoes. All teams experienced a wide variety of success and positive experiences on and off the court Here is a run-down of how our teams finished their season:

1. 43 Grade 7-12 students participated in Mike Burchuk's (former Canadian Women's National Team coach) St. Mary's Volleyball Academy.
2. 60 Grade 7 athletes have participated in 4 developmental, friendly tournaments within the Pembina Trails School Division.
3. The Grade 7 Traveling team participated in the Grade 8 Diggers league and finished in 2nd place the Pembina Trails Athletic Association championship.
4. The Grade 8 Team finished 1st in the Grade 8 Spikers league with the Pembina Trails Athletic Association and finished in 2nd place at the Manitoba Volleyball Association Junior High Challenge.
5. The Grade 9 Team finished in 3rd with the Pembina Trails Athletic Association Championship and finished in the 5th place at the Manitoba Volleyball Association Provincial Championships.

6. The Junior Varsity Team finished in 3rd place in the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship and travelled to Portage to participate in the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial Championships where they finished in the top 8 in the province.

The Varsity Team WON the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Championships and then went on to make SMA history. For the third time in the history of volleyball at SMA, this team made it to the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Final Four Championships and WON a tough and very close match against Crocus Plains. Madelyn Mandryk, and Chelsea Jones were named tournament All-Stars and Alicia Ogoms was tournament MVP. Chelsea, Madelyn and Alicia were also named to the MVA Graduating All-Star team. A huge congratulations to Coaches Christine Rewniak and Leanne Leskiw.

A very large and overwhelming amount of time, effort, commitment and dedication was devoted to the 2011 Volleyball program and the Athletic Department would like to thank the volunteer coaches, parents, teachers, administration, fans, and athletes who so generously supported our volleyball program this year.

Mid Year Assessment

Mid Year Assessments take place from January 16-20, 2012.

Grade 12 ELA Provincial Standards Testing takes place from January 10-13.

Parents are reminded to refrain from booking holidays at this time as missed assessments will reflect a penalty for your daughter.

Junior Special Events

Ms. L. Davey

On October 28th, Junior Special Events held their first dance of the year, *Black and White*. **Thank you very much to all of the volunteers who came out to help supervise the evening.** Without your support, events such as this are not possible! If you were unable to supervise this past event, but would like to volunteer in the future, please mark on your calendars that our next Junior Dance will be held on Friday, April 13th and we will again be in need of parent volunteers. If you are available to supervise this fun event, please contact Ms. Laura Davey at ldavey@stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

School Closure - Inclement Weather

If it is necessary to close school due to severe weather conditions or failure of an essential service before the school day begins, an announcement will be made on various radio stations including CBC, CJOB and HOT 103, as well as, the SMA website.

When a storm develops during the school day, the school will remain open until 3:30 p.m. Students will not be dismissed until parents pick up their daughters.

When a service fails during the school day and it is determined the school should close, students will phone parents to make arrangements before leaving the school. On these occasions the school will remain open until 3:30 p.m.

I am a grade two teacher at Shaughnessy Park School. Today, we received the most gracious gift from some of your students. I would like to thank the teachers and the students involved for bringing such delight to my room this morning. You have no idea how special they all felt and I am so moved by this act of kindness that I needed to let you know how much of an impact it has made on the students and our staff.

We are located in the North End and are a school with many inner city qualities. The majority of my students live in the largest Manitoba Housing Complex and their little lives have probably seen much more than some adults have in their many years of living. I can tell the kids are realizing that "Winter" break is about to start and behaviour has begun to change. For many of these students, the school is their safe place. My heart aches for some of them as I know that they will not get to experience the joys of the Christmas holidays that so many other children are so fortunate to have - family, love and above all peace.

Your Home Economic students designed the most beautiful Christmas Tree cookies and sent them to our school. I had the great fortune of sharing the cookies with my children and the other class of grade twos. Some of my children hadn't eaten today and this was their first and possibly only thing to eat. The children savoured every morsel and there was not a crumb to be seen. I cannot possibly tell you how I felt this morning when we were blessed with such a wonderful gift. My children were so very happy and I literally, was moved to tears.

Please let your staff and students know that this gift, perhaps small as they might think it may have been, was a HUGE thing for my students. Your act of kindness was very much appreciated by our staff and most definitely, our children.

Teacher Grade 2, Shaughnessy Park School

From the Accounting Office

Ms. B. Van Raes

Charitable donation receipts for the **2010-2011** school year, for inclusion with your **2011** tax return, are being prepared and will be mailed in late January. Receipts for the **2011-2012** school year, for inclusion with your **2012** tax return, will be issued in **January 2013**.

The accounting office will be closed December 23, 2011 to January 2, 2012

If you need to contact us during the Christmas break, Brenda Van Raes will be available as follows:

January 3, 2011 to January 5, 2011 @ 478-6042.

Tuition payments will be withdrawn from your account on January 3, 2012. If you require any changes to your payment, please notify us by Thursday, December 22, 2011.



Reflections from WE Day— held on Wednesday, November 23

WE Day was a one-day event where Winnipeg came together to celebrate the positive actions taking place in our community in an effort to make the world a better place for all. **WE Day** proclaimed that our world is one human family bound together in unity, where race, religion, and nationality do not divide us. Our love for our brothers and sisters demands that we promote peace in the world even when it is surrounded by conflict and violence. It encouraged us to recognize that every life is valuable, every life is deserving of respect, and every life is a part of

a greater family. Not only did **WE Day** embrace the Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity, but it also embraced the teaching of Preferential Option (Commitment) for the poor and vulnerable. **WE Day** is all about experiencing that solidarity, feeling that compassion, that need to help. We need to **BE** the change, we **ARE** the change, and that through recognizing our family-like connections, **WE** can come to act on our commitment to help those in our global family who need it the most, those who cannot help themselves.

News from the Parents' Guild

Important Uniform Shop Changes

St. Mary's Academy is changing uniform supplier for next school year. As we make the transition from Halpern's to another Canadian supplier, the Tartan Shop will remain open on Fridays from 12:35 to 1:35 pm, but with the following changes:

1. All purchases will be by cash or cheque payable to St. Mary's Academy. Credit cards will not be accepted.
2. All sales are final.
3. No new Halpern's inventory will be ordered.
4. No items from the new supplier will be

available until the Spring.

Please Note: The uniform supplier is changing – not the uniform. There is one exception. When this transition is complete, unfitted long-sleeved blouses will no longer be available. Please purchase this item now, from existing inventory, if this is one of your favourite uniform pieces.

Cornerstore News

There are only a few more shopping days until Christmas. Your daughter, mother, aunt or cousin will love a St. Mary's hoodie or sweat pants under the tree. We are open everyday from 12:30-1:35 except Tuesday. We accept cash or cheque only.

The Cornerstore Committee would like to extend it's Best Wishes for a Happy and Safe Holiday. See you in the New Year.