



St. Mary's Academy

February 2008 Newsletter

Volume 11

Number 3

From the Director

The time of re-registration is approaching. This year's deadline is March 25th, just days before the Spring Break. You will receive the re-registration package in the mail the week of March 10th. You are asked to complete the documents promptly and return them to the school, along with the \$400 non-refundable deposit, on or before the deadline. I count on your cooperation in meeting the deadline. After that date, we will declare spaces vacant and begin issuing acceptances to the many new applicants who are eagerly awaiting a response from the school.

Have you checked the SMA website lately? (www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca). This parent newslet-

From the Principal

Term 2 has begun - we wish our students good luck as they continue to learn and grow. We are now in the process of planning for the next school year. Thus our current Grade 8 to Grade 11 students will attend curriculum information meetings on March 10th or 11th during school hours. The objective of these grade level information sessions is to provide students with a glimpse of the compulsory and optional courses available to them next year. As parents, your role is critical as your daughter selects her options. You will be asked to sign the option sheet your daughter brings home in March as verification

Active & Healthy Lifestyles - Grade 11 & Grade 12

Undoubtedly, you have heard or read about mandatory implementation of the new Physical Education *Active and Healthy Lifestyle* credits in Grade 11 and Grade 12. In the 2008-2009 school year, we will implement the 50% in-class/ 50% out-of-class model. The in-class component will involve one period of physical education and one of health education in the six-day cycle.

To successfully complete the 50% out-of-class portion of the credit, all Grade 11 and Grade 12 students must participate in 55 hours of moderate to vigorous activity throughout the school year. Such activity can

Education - A Gift We Share

Congratulations to the SMA community! This year the *SMA Education a Gift We Share* program raised \$10,380.00! That is \$300 more than last year's amazing effort! We would like to extend very special thanks to a number of people. First, we say thanks again to Bridget Penny for her wonderful design; thank you goes out to all the volunteers who

ter, and previous issues, are posted in the Parents section along with Parents' Guild information and various forms. Elsewhere you will find valuable information concerning school calendar, daily bulletin, schedules for sports teams, and cafeteria menu.

Mrs. Yunyk and I will attend the annual meeting of administrators of schools under the direction of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary from March 12th to 16th. This year the meeting will be hosted by Holy Names High School in Oakland, CA.

that you agree with her choices. This form must be returned to the office no later than Friday, March 14th. As some options only have one section and limited space in the senior grades, it is very important that it be returned as soon as possible to ensure a spot in that course. If you have any questions regarding our curriculum, visit our website as given above. Click on Life – Academics-High School Program for further information. If you are seeking information on university requirements, please call our career counselor, Mrs. S. Beaucage-Peña, at 477-0244 ext 263.

include a team sport, a fitness activity, and/or another type of approved activity. The Athletic department will organize information sessions in early September 2008 to ensure that all students fully understand the implications of the in-class/ out-of-class model. If you have any questions, please call Mr. D. Danyluk at 478-6038.

Mr. Danyluk was the representative for independent schools on the provincial advisory committee that worked on the curriculum documents; we are very proud of Mr. Danyluk for his commitment to this work and to health and fitness generally.

came to help package the cards; and finally, thank you to Mrs. Heywood and Mrs. Grover who helped input information for the tax receipts!

Support for such a worthwhile project during such a busy time of the year attests to the kindness so evident in the SMA community.

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Dates To Note

Feb. 20 - Gr. 9 - 11 Pascal, Cayley & Fermat Contests

Feb. 22 - New Student Application Deadline

Feb. 23 - Entrance Exams

Feb. 28 - Parent Teacher Conferences 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Feb. 29 - No School Parent Teacher Conferences 10:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Mar. 1—Entrance Exams/New Student Interviews

Mar. 13 - Grade 9 Immunizations

Mar. 15 - New Student Interviews

Mar. 17 - Holy Week Service 11:35 am

Mar. 20 - Holy Thursday Hunger Meal - 11:35 am

Mar. 21 - Good Friday-No school

Mar. 25 - Re-registration Deadline

Mar. 28 - 2:30 pm Dismissal

Mar. 31 - Apr. 4 - Spring Break

Apr. 7 - Classes Resume

Apr. 18 - SMA Senior Dance

Please Keep To the Right

When you enter the school driveway please remember to pull to the **right** side of the road to allow a continuous flow of traffic on the left. This not only allows others to pass freely but most importantly, keeps our students safe.

SMA SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO WEATHER

Please listen to radio stations CJOB, CBC, or HOT 103 to hear if the school will be closed and/or school events cancelled due to bad weather conditions.



Parent/Teacher Conference Forms

These forms are included with this newsletter and the term report card. We ask that you return the completed form to the homeroom teacher as soon as possible. This ensures the best chance of getting your first choice for conference times.

Please note that if you do not receive a confirmation of your conference times by the evening of Tuesday, February 26 contact the school office at 477-0244.

Rotary Career Symposium

Grade 9 - 12 students are invited to participate in this symposium at the Winnipeg Convention Centre April 9th & 10th 9:00am -9:00pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about various careers with over 400 different career exhibits!

The Oldest Oppression

Congratulations are extended to the Grade 11 Drama classes of 2005, 2006 and 2007, all of whom were represented on Tuesday, January 15th for the launch of the DVD of the play, *The Oldest Oppression*. The original play written on human trafficking was filmed into DVD format last spring. After viewing the DVD, the audience gave the cast a standing ovation. To date the film has been used in two universities and shown at a Justice and Peace conference. Many parishes have made a commit-

ment to use the DVD as part of their lenten journey.

If you have a CWL group, or a parish or community organization that would like to use the DVD as an educational tool, please note that the DVD is 45 minutes long and costs \$10.00. A workshop outline is also available.

Please contact Sr. Josephine Chudzik or Ms. Joy Beauchamp for information related to this special project.

The Parents' Guild Has a Message for You

At our December meeting, 26 Guild members enjoyed a wonderful supper gathering at Café Carlo. Our sincerest appreciation goes to Nicola Guttormson for the fabulous arrangements and most delicious meal.

The Guild hosted a well attended Open House for prospective students and their parents on Jan. 17, 2008 with an estimated attendance of 500.

As a parent I'd like to reflect on the importance of parents' participation in their daughter's ac-

tivities during this important developmental stage of their lives. The Administration can only do its best, but it is with parental cooperation and attentiveness that issues can be resolved best. Our daughters are attending, by far, the best facility with people who care about their safety and well-being and who work towards the development of each student to her full potential. That is a gift not to be taken lightly.

Myers Briggs Workshop

Grade 11 and Grade 12 students are invited to discover their giftedness through the MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR workshop scheduled for Saturday March 1st from 8:30 to 12:30. Seating is limited to 18 participants and there is no charge for this workshop.

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

Please contact Mrs. Beaucage-Pena for details.

Going for the Basket

The St. Mary's basketball teams have been representing the school well in all their competitions. The Grade 7 team is enjoying itself and has competed very well in their last two tournaments. The Grade 8 team, with a number of Grade 7s, has competed very well, and has always put in a good effort. The Grade 9 team, with large number of Grade 8s, has been very competitive in league and tournament play. With continuing hard work and dedication the future looks bright.

The same goes for the junior varsity team as it has been a very dedicated and committed team.

Congratulations goes out to this team on winning the Brandon tournament in January. The varsity team, despite a number of injuries, continues to be competitive. It just arrived back from playing in a very competitive tournament in Saskatoon.

Good Luck to all the teams in their upcoming play-offs and possible provincial tournaments. In closing, thank you to all the students who have helped at all the league games and tournament. You are simply the best!

People of Service...in our neighbourhood!

Every Thursday morning for the past twenty years, the Unitarian Church on Wellington Crescent, has opened its doors to those in need. It is a "satellite site" for the Winnipeg Harvest Food bank. The Harvest truck arrives before 9:00am and delivers food that is distributed to people in the area. As People of Service, we are sending a team of five students, accompanied by staff, each week for the rest of year. Students are asked if they want to participate. On the first week of Term 2, five students from

Mr. Bzdel's Religion class went. They helped unload the truck, sort the food, organize the tables and meet people, all in one class period! They were introduced to June, a woman in her eighties who started the program when the church was first located on Banning St. She said people told her, "there was no need for this in our neighbourhood", but she said people lose their jobs, become ill, grow old and other life situations happen that require them to use the services of the food bank. She said, "You just never know."

Campus Ministry

Well, although it is chilly outside, the warmth of so many giving and caring people in our community continues to embrace us. We are trying to keep the *People of Service* focus alive in the daily routine of the community. The R.A.K. Attack book continues to move around the building. A group of students and staff went to the Spence Street Thrift Store for our first AMS@SMA. The choir had the pleasure of sharing its gifts with the Holy Names Sisters at the Despins residence just before our Christmas break. Many of the students commented that they felt as though they received more than they gave!

Speaking of the choir, we say a BIG thank you to Mr. Ryan Kuklik who has been our Director of Music for the past two years. He is going to focus on his other ministries and job and so we wish him well as he continues to share his gifts in service. We welcome Mrs. Mary Morton ('78) who

Junior Debaters

It's been a busy time for our Junior Debaters as they have hosted two tournaments here at SMA. In the early fall, we hosted a novice tournament with our counterparts at St. Paul's High School. The students were given impromptu resolutions and paired with debaters from other schools. It was a great evening of fun and learning. We then hosted a tournament for the Manitoba Speech and Debate Association with eight schools and thirty teams competing. Congratulations to Emily Cummings who was named top SMA debater.

We also participated in two debate tournaments at SJR- one prepared and one impromptu. In the first prepared debate, our top debater was Alyia Ahluwalia while in the second impromptu debate, Katharyn Burczynski took home the hardware.

We are now gearing up for further debates scheduled before spring break followed by Junior Provincials and Grade 7 and 8 Provincials later in the spring.

Flames Hockey All Stars

Congratulations to the SMA Flames Hockey All-stars who participated in the WWHSHL All-star games at the MTS Center on February 3rd. Representing SMA at the junior level were Tess Houston, Elisabeth Hewett and Sarah Alcock. Sara scored a goal and Tess had an assist. They successfully defeated the other junior team by a score of 4 - 2.

Career Cruising

This program provides access to an exceptional interest assessment, in-depth occupational profiles, comprehensive college and university information and an online portfolio and annual education plan.

is our new Director of Music. She is hardly a stranger to the SMA community. As an alumna and mother of an alumna, she knows what it is like to wear the uniform and the meaning of "hold high the torch."

The Catholic Studies Trip for Grade 11 and Grade 12 students is set for May 17-20, 2008. Check the school website for the Catholic Studies brochure. YouthLeader 2008 is August 11-15, with application forms available at the end of February. For more information see the school website or go to the Archdiocese of Winnipeg website www.archwinnipeg.ca/youth.

Remember Good Friday last year when SMA co-sponsored the Public Way of the Cross? Well, this year we are all welcome to St. Joseph's Church (Mountain and Andrews) on Good Friday morning to share in the experience again.



A note to students that it is not too late to join Junior Debating. We meet on Day 2 and Day 6 during the lunch hour in Room 210 and Room 205. All Grade 7, 8, and 9 students are welcome to attend. We also want to thank the senior debaters for their assistance in coaching as well as judging at junior events. We could not run this program without you.

Congratulations to our Junior Debaters for a great showing at the Brock Corydon tournament held on Wednesday, February 6. Our team of Charlotte Coudiere and Emily Cummings finished 11th in the tough open category, and Emily was named top SMA debater. Alex Goodman and Alana Robert finished 2nd in the novice team competition. Alana placed 4th and Alex 2nd in the individual competition. Well done, ladies!

We would also like to recognize Brittany Goodman, a senior debater who participated in the Annual Manitoba Youth Parliament during the Christmas break.



At the Varsity level, SMA was represented by Celine Ward and Rebecca Hewett. Rebecca scored a goal while Celine had a goal and two assists. This team also successfully defeated the other varsity team 7 - 6.

Coaches for this Varsity team were the SMA coaching staff: Bob Johnson, Eric Pele, Kyla Fraser (06) and Richelle St. Croix (03).

To access the site go to careercruising.com.

The username is "manitoba38" and use the password "careers.". For more information, contact Ms. S. Beaucage-Pena at 477-0244 ext 263.

Symbols of Lent in Our Home

Let this lent be a time we CHOOSE to make our homes holy – help raise our minds and hearts to God. Our world is full of so many images that lure our minds and hearts elsewhere. Gather one or all of these symbols in a special place during lent.

A Crucifix/Cross ... We probably all have one in our homes. If not, Lent might be a wonderful time to buy one and place it in a central place.

Water ... A simple bowl of water, in a central place, can be transformed into an ongoing reminder of our journey to the font of baptism. A blessing prayer for it could be: "Lord, may this water remind us of our baptism and be a blessing for our home, where our dying and rising in you is lived each day. Bless us, as we sign ourselves with it each day."

Sand ... Perhaps a bowl of sand can help us remember our journey. God led the people in their journey in the desert. Jesus himself re-enacted that journey to face his own temptations. The desert can be a place of retreat, where there is a freedom from distractions. It can be a good place to be led and to face our temptations.

Candle ... Imagine having a candle in a central place in our homes. Imagine praying together as we begin lent. "Lord, thank you for the gift of your Light in the midst of all darkness. Let this candle be a symbol of our faith in your presence among us." We can light this candle whenever we feel tempted away from the Light of Jesus, experiencing tensions at home, or whenever we need special graces.

Bible ... The Word is so important for us during Lent. Perhaps the prominent presence of a Bible in our homes can represent our desire to let God's Word into our lives.

Fan the Flames with The Corner Store

Cozy up and show school spirit in our great line of SMA and *Flames* sportswear!

A few of the many items now available at the Corner Store:

Microfleece Jackets	\$60.00
<i>Flames</i> Zip-Front Hoodies	\$55.00
Plaid & Navy <i>Flames</i> Pullover Hoodies	\$50.00
<i>Flames</i> Sweat Pants & Yoga Pants	\$40.00
T-shirts (Red & White)	\$20.00
Plaid Flannel PJ	\$25.00

We also carry SMA logo water bottles, travel mugs, sports bags, tote bags and other alumnae memorabilia.

*The Corner Store is conveniently located in the SMA Cafeteria and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:35 to 1:35 PM. Please note that we will be closed March 17 to 20th during Holy Week. Check out our link on the SMA website for pictures of our clothing line & other information about the Corner Store. **Please remember that we are unable to accept debit cards or credit cards but will gladly accept cash or cheques (made out to SMA Parent Guild).***

We are also reminding students and parents that the Corner Store will gladly accept donations of any gently used uniform items, as well as, white shoes & gloves for grads.

Parents and Alumnae - Can't make it to the store during the week? We will be open in the cafeteria on Wednesday, April 15 from 5 to 7 PM. during the Spring Uniform Sale.

IMPORTANT GRAD DATES

The following is a list of important dates for the Grads of 2008 to remember. Mark these dates on your calendars.

Spring Roll Orders	Due February 19
Josten's Rings	February 28 & 29 (During Parent Teacher Interviews)
Juice Orders	Due March 4
Sobey's Orders	Due March 10
Sobey's Orders	Due April 7
Grad Mass & Brunch	May 30 @ 8:30 a.m.
Grad Dinner & Dance	June 13
Convocation Practice	June 24 @ 9:00 a.m. (mandatory attendance for Grads)
Convocation	June 25 @ 7:00 p.m.

SMA Uniform Shop News

SUMMER UNIFORM SALE

Tuesday April 15, 2008

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Summer uniforms may be worn starting May 1.

Details on the summer uniform may be found in the 2007/2008 student agenda.

For those students who wish to purchase a summer uniform, they will be on sale

Tuesday, April 15, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

in the Lounge/Cafeteria.

All students who wish to replace or add to their summer uniform are also encouraged to attend this sale.



God in heaven, the light of your truth bestows sight to the darkness of sinful eyes. May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and the gift of your light. *(Prayer from Ash Wednesday liturgy)*

