



# St. Mary's Academy

## February 2011

### From the Director - Sister S. Wikeem

If you have not seen our new facilities I encourage you to go to the SMA website (www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca) and follow the links on the home page to the Durocher Library, the fitness room, the visual arts studio and the Tartan Shop (uniform shop).

Now that students in Grades 10-12 have been taught how to use the fitness equipment and how to develop a workout plan, we hope to see many of them exercising before school, at lunch time and on their spares. Students who wish to use the fitness room outside of class time must obtain a pass from their phys. ed. teacher and must agree to abide by the Fitness Room Guidelines which can be found via

a link on the Athletics page of the SMA website. The location of the new Durocher Library makes it an ideal place for students waiting for rides after school to study and do homework. The library now stays open until 5:00 pm on days when classes are in session.

In a few short weeks it will be time to re-register for the 2011-2012 school year. I ask for your cooperation in attending to the matter promptly once you have received the documentation. We delay accepting new students until we confirm vacancies. Most families will remember the anxious days waiting for the acceptance letter.

### From the Principal - Mrs. C. Yunyk

It is difficult to believe that five months are left to complete this school year! In addition to continuing to roll out this year's program, plans are well under way for next year including the school calendar, re-registration of current students and the admissions process of new students to our school community. Highlights over the next few months include Option and Program Information Sessions for students currently in Grades 8 -11 on Tuesday February 15. Parents are encouraged to review the Option Sheet with their daughter(s) before signing and returning it to the school office. The Heritage Fair will take place at the school on Wednesday March 16; all Grade 9 and 11 students will participate in the Fair. This extensive school-based activity involving 217 students and over 100 judges is organized by the Social Studies Department, headed by Ms. J. Beauchamp. The junior musical production *Alice in Wonderland* directed by Mrs. M. Franz is in full rehearsal mode and promises to be very entertaining; please support our junior high students by purchasing your tickets early for either the March 18 or 20 show! The Young Women's Awareness Day is scheduled for Thursday April 28. This year's theme - Powerful Possibilities - was created by the student Leadership Council. The organizing committee is comprised of members of the Leadership Council

and five teachers. Assistance throughout the day will be provided by our Ambassador Team, Peer Support Team and parents. Attendance on this day is mandatory; kindly avoid making other plans or appointments so that your daughter can fully engage and benefit from the day. In late June after exams, 14 students will be travelling to El Salvador with Mr. D Kuzenko, Ms. J. Zonneveld and Mrs. C. Yunyk. Project El Salvador has done great work in Loma Linda, a poor and small community located an hour from San Salvador. Our Mission Trip (the first Mission Trip for SMA!) will focus on building a home for Blanca, her four daughters and her granddaughter. Your financial support for this project would be greatly appreciated - more than \$5000 needs to be raised - all donations or fund-raising ideas can be forwarded to Mrs. Yunyk at 478-6033.

Keeping our students focused on their school work and commitment to school clubs and teams is essential over the next few months. Parental support plays an important role to the successful completion of this school year.

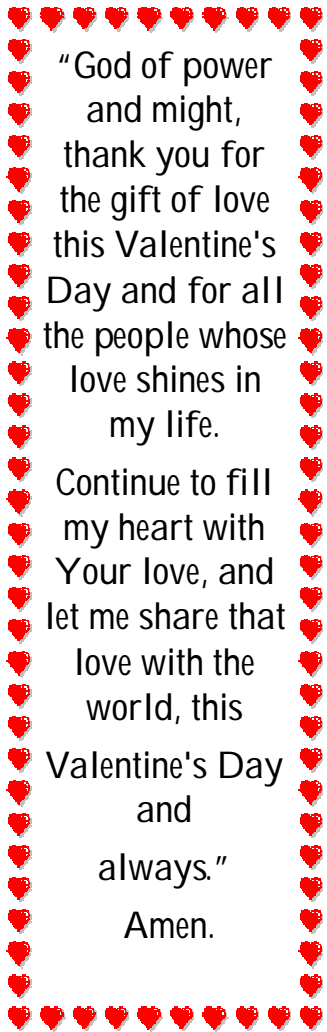
I look forward to seeing you at our many school events over the next few months.

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### Dates to Note:

- Feb 10-12 Varsity Basketball Tournament
- Feb 16 P/T Conferences 5:00-9:00 pm
- Feb 17 P/T Conferences 2:00-8:00 pm no classes
- Feb 18 Catholic Schools' Day no classes
- Feb 21 Louis Riel Day no classes
- Feb 17-19 Varsity Basketball Tournament in Brandon
- Mar 8 Faculty Mtg 2:30 dismissal
- Mar 9 Ash Wednesday
- Mar 16 Heritage Fair
- Mar 17 Mission Colour Day
- Mar 18-20 "Alice in Wonderland" Junior Production
- Mar 21 Re-registration Due
- Mar 22 12:35 Dismissal
- Mar 23-25 Spirit Days
- Mar 28-Apr 1 Spring Break
- Apr 4 Classes Resume



“God of power and might, thank you for the gift of love this Valentine's Day and for all the people whose love shines in my life.

Continue to fill my heart with Your love, and let me share that love with the world, this Valentine's Day and always.” Amen.

Congratulations to Katharyn Burczynski who placed first overall in the Persuasive Speaking category at the Canadian National Public Speaking Championships hosted annually in Winnipeg. This is only the second time a debater from SMA has won a national championship trophy. We are very proud of her excellent achievement!



Louis Riel Day  
February 21, 2011  
No Classes

**Remember When**— Ms. C-A. Swayzie

A-a-a-h the first days of school in September: new school supplies, early morning wake-up calls, new haircuts, freshly laundered uniforms, shoes that meet regulation, cell phone tucked away in a locker...As the song once said: “Those were the days, my friend. We’d thought they’d never end...”

As we begin the second half of the year, we would like to take this time to review a few points regarding expectations of the uniform code, as well as student expectations on a few items. Please be reminded that the kilt should be hemmed to 6 cm above the knee. Many of our girls have grown since the beginning of the year, and require an adjustment to hem lines in order to continue meeting uniform code. We appreciate your assistance in following through with this at home. As well, the waistline should not be rolled up in an attempt to shorten the kilt. As we make it through the last couple of months of cold weather, we ask families to ensure that sweaters are also regulation. These are available through the uniform shop. Students are expected to be in full uniform from 8:30 to 3:30, in all parts of the school building – whether they are on a spare or attending class.

As per haircuts, accessories and jewelry (including piercings), we remind you that our

handbook states that “the school reserves the right to regulate inappropriate hairstyles, hair colour, jewelry and excessive make-up”. These “should be in keeping with the conservative nature of the uniform”.

This generation of students is very technologically inclined – a skill to be admired. However, the use of cell phones during school hours is not acceptable. All cell phones should be turned off during school hours. If you need to contact your daughter when classes are in session, please feel free to phone the school office and leave a message. The classroom needs to be a focused learning environment. Students will have their cell phone confiscated if they chose to ignore this regulation. After three infractions, parents will be called.

Finally, be reminded to call the school and leave a message on the attendance voice mail if your daughter will not be at school, or needs to be dismissed early for an appointment. You can also email to: [wduffy@stmarysacademy.mb.ca](mailto:wduffy@stmarysacademy.mb.ca) if that is more convenient. This will greatly assist our office staff in ensuring that all our students are accounted for on any given day, and at any given period during the day.

We thank you, in advance, for your assistance with these items.

**Re-registration**  
Please be reminded that the due date for re-registration is March 21, 2011. Please respect this deadline as new registrations will be accepted after this date and your daughter’s spot may no longer be available.

**Campus Ministry News** — Ms. M. Garlinski

God is truly GOOD – all the time! As I look out the window on this picturesque winter day, I am reminded of the many ways that God “covers” us with blessings and I am privileged to witness it in Campus Ministry all the time! The CM club welcomed perspective families at Open House, students led the prayers services for the week of prayer for Christian unity, our staff and J-Walking group organized and shared the meal at Welcome Home, and the CLC members gathered on their day off to build community and share faith this month. As we look to February and March we are excited about launching the registrations for YOUTHLEADER 2011 (August 15-19), AMS@SMA (February 25<sup>th</sup> at Spence Street Thrift store), Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast (March 8) and Ash Wednesday Service March 9<sup>th</sup>. We continue to celebrate together in prayer Wednesday mornings at 8am in the Holy Names Chapel and parents are ALWAYS welcome. So, although we might be in the season of “ordinary time” in the church year – there is nothing ordinary about the many blessings we receive from God!

## Math News — Mrs. V. Epp

Congratulations to Rachel Nickel for her outstanding achievement in the 2010 Sun Life Financial Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge. She receives a Certificate of Distinction and one of only 9 gold medals awarded to Manitoba students.

We would also like to acknowledge the following students who will be attending the 17th Annual IIMS/University of Manitoba PROB-LEM SOLVING WORKSHOP.

Grade 10 - Cailey Coughlan, Lauren Gowler, Alannah Thibodeau  
Grade 11 - Gillian Smith  
Grade 12 - Lea Soenen

Dates to Remember:

February 24 - Pascal, Cayley, and Fermat Math Contest 8:45am - 10am Approximately 100 students from grades 9 to 11 will be writing.

April 12 - Euclid Math Contest 8:45 - 11:30 (for selected grade 12 students)

April 13 - Fryer, Galois, and Hypatia Math Contests 8:45 - 10:30 (selected grade 9, 10 and 11 students)

May 11 - Gauss Math Contest - for all grade 7 and 8 students. Time TBA

## Alice in Wonderland - Miss J. Korol & Miss J. Sisler

It's that time again! Are you ready for this year's junior drama production? After last year's huge success, Annie Jr., we are pleased to bring you Alice in Wonderland Jr. The play is based on the 1951 Disney version, and is an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's original story. Join Alice's madcap adventures in Wonderland as she chases the White Rabbit, races the Dodo Bird, gets tied up with the Tweedles, raps with a bubble blowing Caterpillar, and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own game! With only

two performance dates, this must see show should not be missed.

Tickets are \$10.00 each and will go on sale Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The show dates are Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Please come out and support the hard work of all the teachers, junior and senior students involved in making this year's production of Alice in Wonderland Jr. a success!

## Home of the Flames

Mr. D. Danyluk

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The St. Mary's hockey teams are in the final stretch of the regular season using these final games in preparation for the upcoming playoffs. The St. Mary's team coached by Eric Pele was successful in winning the John Taylor Piper Classic right after the Christmas holidays. We would also like to thank Mr. Wolsey and the South Winnipeg Eye Center for helping us out in purchasing new uniforms for both our hockey teams.

## Heritage Fair

Ms. J. Beauchamp

Every year volunteer judges help us offer the opportunity to our Grade 9 and 11 students to share their work and research with the SMA school community. The Social Studies Department again needs volunteer judges for our Heritage Fair on March 16, 2011 from 8:30 until after lunch. Any family members or friends of SMA are welcome to judge, no prior experience is necessary as the judges will be briefed before the Fair begins.

If you can volunteer, or have any questions about judging for the Fair please contact [jburg@shaw.ca](mailto:jburg@shaw.ca) or [joy@stmarysacademy.mb.ca](mailto:joy@stmarysacademy.mb.ca). Thank you for your continued support. Without volunteer judges our Heritage Fair would not be possible.

## 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.



**Gr. 12 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 18, 2011 -  
Early Application Deadline: University of Manitoba

March 1, 2011 -  
Early Application Deadline: University of Winnipeg

Please refer to the SMA Career Information Website for other university deadlines or check their websites.

Students who missed the 'Online Application Workshops' offered by Ms. Uruski in January can access the Self Directed Guide on the SMA Career Info website or obtain a copy currently located on the bulletin board across from Room 311.

**Gr. 11 Post-Secondary Information Sessions**

February 14: Intro to University presentation by a guest from the University of Manitoba at SMA  
February 15: Intro to University presentation by a guest from the University of Winnipeg at SMA

**Campus Tour**

Grade 11 students will also be attending the University of Manitoba Info Days on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. This event offers students the opportunity to get a tour of the U of M Campus and to find out more about the programs offered at the university. The students will also receive information about the advantages of becoming an affiliate of St. Paul's College at the U of M and attend a special career planning session presented by David Ness, Coordinator of Career Services. Students are asked to

meet Mrs. Yunyk and Ms. Uruski at St. Paul's College – Hanley Hall for 8:45am attendance and the first presentation. Free parking is available to students however car pooling or use of Winnipeg transit is recommended. Parent permission forms must be returned to the school by Feb 4.

February 22 (5-8pm) - Red River College is hosting an Open House at its Notre Dame & Exchange District Campuses

February 23 (5:30-8pm) – The University of Winnipeg is hosting an Open House

\*Grade 11 Students are reminded to submit their 'scholarship resume' by email to Ms. Uruski by Feb 14. Details of this assignment are available on the SMA Career Information website for reference.

**Gr. 10 Career Development Classes**

Grade 10 students will be starting their Career Development Classes in February. Students will be bringing home their course outline for parents and guardians to review. If you have not seen information about your daughter's class, please ask her to show you her Career Development notebook. As part of the course, students will be attending the Rotary Career Symposium on April 7<sup>th</sup> where they will spend the day learning about a variety of career and post-secondary educational opportunities. The cost of this field trip, including transportation and admission to the symposium will be \$8.00 per student. This activity is mandatory and further information along with a permission form will be provided to your daughter in March.

UNICEF Canada has informed us that St. Mary's Academy's contribution of \$4330.41 made it the Top School in Manitoba and one of the Top 20 schools in Canada. A thank you plaque will be presented to the school.

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**News from the Parents' Guild**

Come and see our wide variety of SMA sportswear and our new stainless steel water bottles. The SMA charm makes the perfect keepsake for your graduating daughter. We are open every day except Tues. 12:30-1:35. You can also visit us at the Spring Sale and New Student Sale. We accept all gently used clothing. You can view our merchandise on the SMA website, as well as the volunteer schedule. Please remember cheque or cash only. Keep your eyes open for the new merchandise arriving in the Spring.



"It is to a heart silent and listening that God speaks."

**On a Mission -**

*Sister M. Gibney & Ms. L. Dart*

Here we are already one month into 2011! Since the Christmas break, plans are well underway for our Winnipeg Harvest Food Drive from February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup> and our Hunger Meal assembly on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Our weekly collections have gone to Habitat for Humanity and Jocelyn House. All proceeds from the colour day on January 27<sup>th</sup> will support children (those orphaned by HIV/Aids) who attend our sister schools in Lesotho, Africa. Once again we thank you for your support-to those of you who drive your daughters early so that they might be at the doors to collect the toonies, to those who bake for the classroom sales, and to all who support your daughter in her efforts to make a difference.