



St. Mary's Academy

February 2009 Newsletter

News from the Director - Sister Susan Wikeem



I am pleased to welcome Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie to the Academy as Vice Principal. She has been on the job since January 19th. Mrs. Swayzie is no stranger to SMA. She is an alumna and mother of a current student. Since graduating from the University of Manitoba she has worked in public schools, most recently at Grant Park and Tec Voc. Among other duties Mrs. Swayzie will be responsible for grades 9 and 10 students.

Design for the phase 3 expansion and renovations is nearing completion. We hope to begin the first stage this summer - construction of the new library then conversion of the current library to a

fine arts studio. If all goes according to plan these 2 new areas will be opened the following school year.

We are excited about the improvements to the facility that will allow us to enhance our programs. In order to complete the entire phase 3 project, which includes expanded athletic and dramatic arts facilities, we need your help. If you have not already made a pledge to our expanding the vision capital campaign please consider doing so this month. Our goal is to raise \$1.5 M from the parent community. Information on the project and the fund raising is posted on the SMA website. You can download the pledge form from there.

Awareness Day at the Academy - Mrs. C. Yunyk

On Friday March 20, all students will participate in an activity-filled day celebrating young women. A committee comprised of teachers and the student leadership council has been meeting to plan a day where all students can feel enriched and included.

The theme of the day this year, generated by our student leadership council, is REJUVENATE, MOTIVATE, CELEBRATE. Guest speakers, break-out sessions, nutrition breaks and a performance by a Japanese drumming group are but a few examples of how the day will unfold. If parents have any suggestions for possible breakout session facilitators, please contact Mrs. Yunyk at cyunyk@stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

As spring approaches, we are preparing our girls for next year's course selections. On March 4th, all students in Grades 8 - 11 will participate in grade specific assemblies to better understand the academic programs and course options available to them in their senior years.

The same evening, we are hosting a parent session which will provide an opportunity for parents to pose questions and gain a better understanding of the academic programs and options. We hope that this will assist you and your daughter in making the best decisions for her courses next year. Registration forms will be due shortly thereafter.

Symbols of Lent in Our Homes - Ms. M. Garlinski

Let this lent be a time you CHOOSE to make your home holy – it helps 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 home. Is it in a central place?

Water ...A simple bowl of water, can be transformed into an ongoing reminder of our journey to the font of baptism.

Sand ...Perhaps a bowl of sand can help us remember our journey. God led the people in their

journey in the desert. Jesus himself reenacted 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...Have a candle in a central place in your home. You can light this candle whenever you 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 home can represent our desire to let God's Word in our lives.

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Dates to Note

February

- 2 - Term 2 Begins
- 12 - Report Cards & Newsletter
- 13 - Catholic Schools In-Service / No School
- 12-14 - Varsity Basketball tournament
- 16 - Louis Riel Day / No School
- 18 - Math contests grades 9-11
- 23 - Pancake breakfast 7:45 - 8:30
- Parent Teacher conferences 5 - 9
- 24 - No school: Faculty meetings, Parent Teacher conferences 11 - 4 p.m.
- 25 - Ash Wednesday Service 11:35
- 27 - Alumnae 100th Anniversary

March

- 4 - Program information evening 7:00
- 6 - Staff retreat / No School
- 11 - Career Symposium grade 10
- 13 - Science Fair grades 7, 8
- 18 - 12:30 Dismissal - Faculty meeting
- 19 - Heritage Fair public viewing p.m.
- 20 - Young Women's Awareness Day
- 25 - Re-registration due

- England trip departs
- Spirit Days begin

30 - April 3 - Spring Break

April

- 6 - classes resume
- 7 - Math contest grade 12
- Parents' Guild meeting 7:30
- 8 - Math contests / grades 9 - 11
- 9 - Holy Thursday Hunger Meal 11:00
- 10 - Good Friday No School
- 13 - Professional In-service/No School
- 14 - Progress reports, newsletters
- Easter Liturgy 2:30

Lesotho Gift Card Campaign

The Education a Gift We Share – Christmas Gift Card campaign raised just over \$8800.00 this year!

Many thanks to Chelsea Caldwell the student coordinator and to all the many students who helped package the cards and who promoted the campaign in so many ways!

Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Thank-you!

Our thanks to Father Sam and Holy Rosary Parish for their recent gift of a beautiful set of mass vestments.

Are You a Winner?

For those people that have bought Show & Save coupon books, don't forget to check its website @ www.showandsavecard.com to see if you are a winner!

Check to see if the last 3 digits of your card number match the winning numbers. A new contest runs every couple of weeks, so make sure to go back and check the site frequently.

IMPORTANT GRAD DATES

Here is a list of important dates for the 2009 Grads to remember:

Feb. 19 - **Mandatory** Safe Grad Parent Information meeting @ 7:30 in Alumnae Hall

May 29 - Parent/Daughter Mass and Brunch

June 8 - Alumnae Induction and BBQ

June 19 - Dinner and Dance

June 26 - Convocation 2:00 pm



In Appreciation - Mrs. C.A. Northcott

I would like to say a sincere "thank you" to the parents, students, faculty and staff of St. Mary's Academy for the many expressions of gratitude given as my time at the wonderful institution drew to a close. I truly appreciated your emails, cards (purchased and hand-made), gifts, floral bouquets, hugs and words of support. Each sign of appreciation has meant so much to me.

It was an honour and a privilege to work with

and support each member of the St. Mary's school community. As I move to a new phase in my professional career, my fondest wish is that we will meet, chat and share stories in the months and years ahead.

God bless each of you.

Sincerely,

Carol Anne Northcott

"Heaven Is ..." - Mrs. M. Franz

In term two, Grade 7 and 8 students will have an opportunity to audition for the junior years production of "Heaven Is...". It's a delightful show about a group of young people on a quest to discover the true meaning of heaven. Auditions will take place during the second week of February.

Senior students are encouraged to help out and gain some real backstage experience in the theatre. Please speak with Mrs. Franz or Mrs. Danylchuk if you would like to be

involved.

Good luck to all the Grade 7 and 8 girls planning to try out in February. Break a leg!



There will be two performances, one on May 24th at 7:30 p.m., and a second on May 26th at 2:00 p.m. Stay tuned for information on ticket sales.

Mission...Possible! - Ms. L. Dart & Sister M. Gibney

We had a wonderful response from both students and teachers regarding our Christmas hampers!! About 550 gifts were prepared and happily received by "our friends" at the Immaculate Conception Drop In. The extras were brought to other inner city agencies for distribution. Our gratitude goes to both you and your daughters.

We continue our regular weekly mission collections for different agencies. Our col-

our day was hosted by members of both the athletic council and the mission club. Proceeds will be divided among Special Olympics and other agencies working with the marginalized of our city.

Two speakers have been booked for our Annual Hunger Meal which will be taking place Holy Thursday, April 9. You are welcome to attend. Many of our reps are working hard to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters in need.

People of Hospitality -Ms. M. Garlinski

Lent is quickly approaching!

Although January was focused on exams, the staff had a chance to reach up and reach out as People of Hospitality. We helped out at Harvest Thursday and donated, prepared, and served the meal at Welcome Home (an inner city mission in the Point Douglas area maintained by the Redemptorist Community).

The Grade 7s also celebrated Catholic Schools Week by taking a field trip to Holy Rosary Church. There they had three sessions: a tour of the Church, Jumping into Lent, and Exploring Holy Week. I look forward to spending the month of February in the Grade 10 Religion classes as we focus on the Liturgy.

Our J-walking, CLC, Jr. CL and Campus Ministry reps have been committed to their groups and activities. We are planning op-

tional retreats for the CLC and choir this spring.

The choir is back into full swing after exams. We will be spending extra time with senior choir members as they prepare to journey from April 23-28 to visit St. Mary's Academy in Portland, OR. They will participate in a spectacular concert with other Holy Names Schools as part of their 150th Anniversary celebrations.

Please remember that you are welcome to join us for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes, our regular Wednesday morning Mass or Taizé Prayer.

May your Lenten journey prepare your heart and home for the celebration of Easter!

Career & Personal Counselling - Mrs. S. Matheson & Mrs. D. Sigurdson

Grade 10 Rotary Career Symposium
March 11, 2009

Grade 10 students from St. Mary's Academy will be attending the Rotary Career Symposium on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The Symposium's mandate is to provide a forum where students can learn about careers and post-secondary education options.

Students will be dismissed at 11:35 a.m. so that they will have time to eat their lunch before leaving to go to the Symposium. Students and supervising faculty will be traveling by bus to the Convention Centre at 12:00 p.m. and will return by 3:00 p.m.. The cost of this field trip, including transportation and admission to the symposium is \$5.00 per student.

This activity is mandatory and is an excellent opportunity for students to explore career options. Further information and a permission form will be sent home later in February.

Parents are invited to go to
www.career-symposium.org
for more information.

As the Ball Bounces - Mr. D. Danyluk

Basketball season is up and fast breaking (running). All five teams are working hard on their individual skills and understanding various team concepts. This alone makes all our teams winners. As a result of their dedication, commitment and teamwork, St. Mary's two high school teams find themselves ranked in the top 10.

The Junior Varsity team is currently ranked 2nd in the province and is first in the West Winnipeg Conference. They have been victorious in three tournaments. Their most recent tournament was at home on February 5th, 6th

Grade 12 Career Counselling Update

Grade 12 students are reminded to regularly check their school e-mail for the Career Counselling Newsletter and updates. This letter is also posted on the SMA website. The newsletter contains valuable information about scholarships, university application deadlines and important dates or events. Please note the following important dates and events for the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg:

February 18

University of Winnipeg Open House
Riddell Hall
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

February 20

University of Manitoba Deadline for
Early Admission and Entrance
Scholarships.

March 1

University of Winnipeg
Early Application and Entrance
Scholarship Deadline.

and 7th. Many students were there cheering on their classmates.

As of press time, the Varsity team is ranked 5th in the province. They are continually improving and are preparing for league playoffs starting late February. They were victorious in their last tournament at Miles Mac. Their next tournament was at Sisler and then in Saskatoon.

Join us at the Varsity home tournament on February 12, 13 and 14. This tournament will be competitive with 5 of the 8 teams ranked in the top 10.

All's "Fair" in Love and Science

- Ms. J. Dyck-Lyons, Ms. C. Wojcik, Mr. J. Villa

This year, the Science Fair will be held on Friday, March 13th, 2009 in our school Cafeteria starting at 8:30 a.m. Our Grade 7 & 8 girls continue to work hard on their 2009 Science Fair projects.

Many guests will be joining us in the morning to assist in judging the projects. The extended community will be able to view the projects during the afternoon.

Those students whose projects are award winners will be taking part in the Manitoba Schools' Science Symposium. This event will be held April 23 - 26 at the University of Winnipeg, Duckworth Centre.



Join us in prayer!



Wednesday mornings
@ 8am in the

Holy Names Chapel

February 4, 11, 18

Mass (Ordinary Time)

February 25 Ash Wednesday
Liturgy of the Word and Dis-
tribution of Ashes
11:35 Alumnae Hall

March, 4, 11, 18, 25, April 8
Taizé Prayer (Lent)

March 13th

Shrove Tuesday... Actually it is Shrove Monday!

On February 23rd, all students and staff are welcome to the Cafeteria between 7:45-8:30am for pancakes, hot chocolate and Mardi Gras music!

Traditionally, this happens on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, but since the Tuesday is an in-service day we will celebrate this on **MONDAY**.

Tickets are \$2 and must be purchased in advance (sorry no day of sales this year!). Tickets will be sold between February 17 - 20.

Junior Debating

Have you been thinking you would like to try debating but have been too busy?

Now that exams are complete, junior debating will commence for the second term.

We will now be meeting after school on Day 5 from 3:30-4:30 in room 100. New debaters are always welcome!

See Mrs. Stefanyshyn or Mrs. Martino for more information.

Parents' Guild- *Ms. K. Dane*

Our December supper meeting, held at Mise, was a huge success. Watch the webpage for our June destination, and plan to join us for great conversation and a fine supper.

The Corner Store is having great success with its new clothing items and have generated an unbelievable profit of over \$8 300! Our Bingo crew is equally as successful with a first installment received of \$8 766. Both of these successes are a direct result of the dedication of parents who donate their precious time on behalf of our daughters.

As of November 30, 2008 the Guild had sufficient funds on hand to fulfill Sister Susan's "wish list". Sister Susan is always very creative with purchases for the school that the Guild accommodates. Our recent purchases include 150 pairs of white gloves for the graduates to use for Convocation and the group graduation photo. This should keep us supplied for several years to come. As well, some instruments were purchased for the recent musical. These instruments will be used for future Mass celebrations along with the Sacred Mass Vessels we provided. Finally, microwaves were purchased for student use in the cafeteria.

Thanks to all for their wonderful efforts in achieving these goals.

Late Nite Catechism - *Ms. A. Cibinel*



St. Mary's Academy Alumnae Association was established in 1909 and continues to be dedicated to celebrating and enabling lifelong friendships and supporting the school's mission.

The Alumnae Association is launching its centennial year activities with an elegant evening of fine theatre: a professional stage performance of Late Nite Catechism in Alumnae Hall on February 27, 2009.

"Late Nite Catechism" takes a nostalgic and hilarious look at parochial school education in the fifties and sixties incorporating many of the changes in the Church since then, but is never unkind or cynical about either the old or the new ways.

It was written in 1993 by Maripat Donovan and Vicki Quade and has toured North America ever since. This one-woman show features a formidable but lively Sister against the backdrop of an era appropriate classroom. However, Sister doesn't spend much time at her desk – the show is mainly improvisational with ample audience participation. Much of "Late Nite-Catechism" consists of ascertaining how many Catholics remember what they were taught years ago, along with a refresher course in discipline and decorum.

Tickets are \$50 for assigned seating and include an invitation to join us at a champagne reception prior to the show. Please make cheques payable to SMA Alumnae Association and prepare your self for the heartiest belly laugh you've had in a long time!

For ticket purchases, please call Andrea Cibinel, SMA Alumnae Association, @ 478-6031

It's Registration time!

A reminder that re-registration time is drawing near. We are hosting a Senior High Program Information Evening for Parents on Wed. March 4 @ 7:00 in Alumnae Hall. This is an opportunity to ask questions about senior high options. Parents of students currently in grades 8 - 11 should plan to attend.

Re-registration packages will be in the mail the week of March 9th and completed forms and payment are due on or before March 25th.

SUMMER UNIFORM SALE

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Summer uniforms may be worn starting May 1. Details on the summer uniform may be found in the 2008-2009 student agenda. For those students who wish to purchase summer uniforms, they will be on sale Tuesday, April 14 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.

Friday May 15, 2009 will be the last day the Uniform Shop is open for this school year.

Pictures of our Corner Store items are now displayed on the St. Mary's website. Look under "Parents" and "Corner Store". The Corner Store is conveniently located in the SMA cafeteria and is open each Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12:30 to 1:35 pm.

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).

FROM THE ACCOUNTING OFFICES

Charitable donation receipts for the 2007-2008 school year, for inclusion with your 2008 tax return, were mailed on January 29, 2009. If you did not qualify for a donation receipt, a letter has been mailed to you stating such.

If you have not received your 2007-2008 donation receipt by February 12, 2009, please call Brenda Van Raes at 478-6042. Receipts for the 2008-2009 school year, for inclusion with your 2009 tax return, will be issued in January 2010.

Good news!!!! Legislation was passed making elementary and secondary school bursaries and scholarships non-taxable. As such, we will no longer be preparing T4A's for bursaries or scholarships awarded by the school for tuition. We do, however, still have to issue T4A's for post-secondary scholarships. Those slips will be mailed to the recipient of the award shortly.

