



St. Mary's Academy

June 2009 Newsletter

News from the Director - Sister Susan Wikeem



The SMA staff is grateful for the invaluable assistance we received throughout the school year from parents who supervised, coached, fundraised, chauffeured, cooked and hosted events. Special thanks to the hard working, dedicated members of the Parents Guild led by President Katherine Dane.

The Phase 3 expansion plans are almost complete. You can view the architectural renderings on the SMA website. If all goes according to plan we will start late this summer with the library construction.

The expanding the vision capital campaign is ongoing and we count on your support to enable us to complete the entire project.

Parents can expect to receive the next newsletter in early August. The school calendar is already posted on the website. The supply lists and parking application will be posted in early July. This newsletter will also be posted in the Parents section.

I wish all families a restful, pleasant summer.

Principal's Message - Mrs. C. Yunyk

It always amazes us how quickly the year passes. So many accomplishments, so many skills strengthened, so much growth! Congratulations to our students on another successful school year.

As one year winds down, we have been looking to planning the next year...and beyond. We are proud to announce that we, at SMA, are on the cutting edge of initiatives being implemented by the Department of Education. Of particular note is our growth in the area of *Assessment For, Of and As Learning*. Faculty has been taking professional development over the past two years in order to prepare for this shift to improved assessment formats for improved student achievement.

In depth, international studies over the past number of years have proven that when teachers engage students in varied forms of assessment, go to deeper levels of understanding, and involve

students in self-assessing their growth, there is greater achievement of outcomes. As well, the learning that takes place can be connected to a greater scope of topics learned later in scholastic endeavours.

As part of the implementation, we are moving to a new, mid-year assessment format which will take place over a span of three weeks in January. The type of assessment chosen will relate to specific subject area curriculum outcomes, and, as such, the format will vary. We will continue to have final exams, however, there will no longer be exemptions, which is much more in-line with post-secondary expectations. We are looking forward to this exciting educational shift, and will be sharing more specific information as the new school year begins.

Have a safe, relaxing summer holiday. God Bless.

On a Mission! - Sister Marylyn and Mrs. L. Dart

2008-2009 proved to be a great year. Our school community clearly demonstrated its solidarity with those who are most in need. Many of our classes were extra generous in the last couple of weeks, taking up the challenge to 'out do' each other. 11-3 attained first prize. Thank you, Mr. Saj for shaving your head. Other classes took advantage of the fact that there was no cafeteria service: bake sales consisting of both sweets and healthy foods, pizza sales, and root beer floats' sales! Other classes had raffles. Almost all the classes made a wonderful effort! Our winners were 8-1(second place), 8-3 (third place), and 8-2(fourth place).

Many groups have benefited by our weekly collections

this last term: Next Step Peer Support Program, Osborne House, Our Place/Chez Nous, Pregnancy and Family Services, Villa Rosa, Welcome Place, No Kill Pet Shelter, and the Winnipeg Block Parent Organization. These are just some of our recipients this year.

Thank you to our leadership team consisting of Jessica Enns, Christine Lam, Christine Caligiuri, Olivia Danylchuk, Gabby Morrill, and Taylor Onsowich who kept alive our motto: All it takes is the gift of giving. Thanks to all our mission reps who attended the meetings and faithfully took up the weekly collection.

Thanks to all for your gift of giving. You are wonderful!

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Dates to Note

June

30 school year ends

July

2 - 8 School office is open

August

17 - 21 Youth Leader training program

24 - School Office re-opens

31 - Sept 4

Grade 7 pre-season training camp

September

8 - Administration Day (no students)

9 - New Student Orientation Day

10 - First Day of Classes

11 - Grade 9 Welcome Day

Opening Mass @ 2:15

16 - School Pictures

17 - Parent Information Evening

18 - Last day to change options

21 - Grade 12 retreat

23 - Walk for Breast Cancer

27 - Alumnae Tea

30 - School Dismisses Early @ 12:30

October

6 - Mother Marie Rose Mass @ 8:30

7 - School - wide Retrally

12 - Thanksgiving Day - no classes

13 - Full winter uniform required

14 - 16 Grade 7 camp

15 - Newsletter distributed

22 - Early Dismissal @ 12:30

27 - Picture retakes

28 - Human Rights Dinner

30 - Mission Colour Day

Congratulations

Our congratulations
to Mr. D. Danyluk



on 25 years of
dedication and
commitment to
High School
athletics.

An award was presented
in April at the Coaching
Manitoba annual awards.

Campus Ministry

What an AWESOME year!
Please keep the SNJM Jus-
tice Network participants,
Youth Leader 2009 Team and
Campus Ministry Leadership
Team in your prayers as they
gather & plan for next year.

The Corner Store

With the introduction of new
items, and the resulting sales
generated, it was another great
year for The Corner Store. The
girls look great in the new
hoodies and
sweatpants.

Our thanks to
the many vol-
unteers who
take time out
of their busy
schedules to
help out. Our
success is not possible without
their support. Special thanks to
Karen Duha and Jocelyn Pele,
who give a whole new meaning
to the word volunteer.

Congratulations to our gradu-
ates and God Bless.

Have a safe and
happy summer.



University Prep Packages

Mrs. Matheson has been busy meeting
with all our grade 11 students as they
wind down this year and begin to prepare for
their future academic pursuits.

All grade 11 students have received a Uni-
versity preparation package assembled by our
career counseling teacher.

Parents, take some time to peruse it and dis-
cuss options and ideas with your daughters.

Life beyond high school is quickly approach-
ing and we recognize how important it is for
families to discuss those plans at this time.

'Flu Information

As we prepare for summer holidays, and look
to planning for next year, we are taking a
relatively new factor into consideration: influenza.

Know that we, at SMA, are already talking about
this newest health concern and discussing proac-
tive, preventative measures that can be put into
place. As well, we are discussing how best to
address absenteeism issues should the 'flu become
a greater issue in Winnipeg.

Manitobans are beginning to ask a wide variety of
questions. For your most current information as
well as resources, we encourage you to visit the
Manitoba government website at:

www.gov.mb.ca/flu/index.html

History is Alive and Well! - Ms. J. Beauchamp, Mrs. D. Nickel

As reported in our last issue, we had a number
of award winners at our annual Heritage Fair. Some
of those winners went on to represent SMA at the
Red River Heritage Fair held in May at the U of W.

We congratulate all entrants and would especially
salute the following for their achievements: Jenny Jo,
Grade 9 - Laurier Lapierre Award; Laura Blakesly
and Shalaka Godse - Best Grade 11 project and
Exchange District Prize; Alanna Scammell - CTV
Research Award.

A number of our grade 11 students had their papers



submitted for the Young Historians Competition
which was sponsored by the Manitoba Historical
Society. As always, the level of research
and writing was of a high level, and the judges
enjoyed reading all the papers. Each paper
received at least two evaluations, with the
emphasis on originality of research and analysis
along with a high standard of writing. In order
to qualify, the topic chosen must deal with
Manitoba history.

Congratulations go out to Alanna Scammell.
Her work, entitled *The Feminization of Poverty
in Manitoba*, tied for first place in the research
paper category.

Summer School ... for Teachers!

While most of our students are enjoying a
well-deserved break from their studies, many
of our faculty at SMA are taking courses, or
participating in professional development
sessions during the summer months.

Ms. Dyck-Lyons has been accepted to attend
the Space Camp for Educators program at the
Canadian Space Centre in Longueuil, Quebec
during the first week of August.

Mrs. Franz will be taking her final course
towards her post-baccalaureate certification
and Mrs. Pistawka will be taking a course in
adolescent literature towards her masters.

Ms. C. Wojcik will be participating in the
SNJM Youth Justice Project which is facilitat-
ed by Mrs. Beauchamp and Ms. Garlinski. Mr.
Macaraeg will accompany the Youth Leader
2009 Team to their session, which is also
facilitated by Ms. Garlinski.

Many teachers will be taking professional
sessions offered by Manitoba Education and
Citizenship for Youth toward the end of
August. Mrs. Challes will attend Introduction
to Applied

and Pre-Calculus Mathematics (grade 10).
Mrs. Danyluk will attend sessions pertaining
to Grade 7 & 8 Social Studies while Mrs.
Beauchamp and Mr. Saj will attend a session
on the new Grade 11 History curriculum. Mrs.
O'Leary will attend a session related to im-
plementing the Phys. Ed curriculum while
Mrs. Swayzie will attend a session related to
Grade 9 Math. Mrs. Martino will be taking a
course concerning Literacy across the curricu-
lum.

Many of our teachers will be reading exten-
sively this summer in order to increase their
own repertoire of skills and knowledge, all
of which are applied toward assisting our
students in achieving their learning goals
throughout the year.

It is wonderful to salute our
teachers. We wish to take this time to
recognize their commitment to their profes-
sional growth, and ultimately, their commit-
ment to their students.



Physical Education - Mr. D. Danyluk, Mrs. C. Rewniak, Mrs. J. O'Leary

From April to June, 70 athletes participated in Badminton, Rugby, Soccer, and Track and Field. Countless hours have been spent pursuing excellence.

The Jr. Badminton team finished with a strong showing in the Pembina Trails Athletic Association: Emily McPherson/Landon Falk - 2nd, Grade 8 Girls Doubles and Anika Campeau - 1st, Grade 9 Girls Singles.

At the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Sr. High Badminton Championships, Grade 10 students Amy Smith and Bri-Ann Tokariwski finished 4th and 5th in league play. A big thanks to coach Jennifer Ferguson.

The Athletic Awards Assembly and Banquet was held on May 22nd. Athletes, coaches, parents, and supervisors gathered together to celebrate and share in the year's experiences. Several awards were handed out recognizing many people who dedicated time, energy and enthusiasm to coaching, participating, scorekeeping and supporting our teams. Congratulations to Katelyn Demers and Andrew Phan (JV Basketball) who won the SMA Coaches of the Year award.

The SMA soccer team was competitive this year losing a very close match in the Semi-finals in WWAC conference play. After applying for a wildcard they advanced to the MHSA Championships where they beat the 1st ranked team in the Semi-finals and went on

to win the Silver Medal; an outstanding result. This young team will continue to grow next year.

Our predominantly rookie rugby team showed great development in the skills and knowledge of the game. The best of luck next year.

The Jr. and Sr. track teams competed extremely well at their meets. There were a number of athletes finishing in the top 3 of their event (too many to mention!).

The Manitoba High School Championships were held at the U of M on June 5th and 6th. Grade 9 student Erin Teschuk won Gold in the JV 3000m, and Silver in both the 1500m and 800m. The JV medley relay team (Erin Teschuk, Rachel Dufresne, Amy Smith and Jennifer Myskiw) finished 2nd in the province. Also in the Varsity category Nicole Dubois finished 2nd in both the 3000m and 1500m, finishing off her high school career with a 3rd in the 800m. Congratulations to all athletes who represented SMA with class and dignity.

The Grade 7 Pre-Season Training Camp will begin August 31-September 4, 2009, for more information please contact Mrs. O'Leary or Mrs. May.

Congratulations to everyone for their dedication, and commitment to the SMA athletic program. Have a healthy and enjoyable summer.

Vive Le Français! - Mme. Desaulniers, Mme. Grande, Mme. Letkeman

The French Department had a very productive year. La semaine française was celebrated during the "Festival du Voyageur" with activities ranging from students learning French folkloric dances to French classes singing voyageur songs together. A theatre group from St. Boniface came to the school and presented a collection of songs, skits and poetry celebrating the franco-manitobain culture. The Grade 7 students went to St. Boniface to see a French production of different versions of fairy tales. Laura Lussier, an alumna of SMA, played the lead female role.

Special congratulations to: Kelsey Desilets, Julia Krovats, Courtney Paquette and Victoria Weir who attended "Semaine par excellence" at Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface. These four Gr. 9 and

10 students sampled various university level programs presented in French for the week. They had an opportunity to enrich their language skills while adding to their bank of knowledge. Congratulations also go out to the following junior students for their placements in the Provincial "Concours D'Art Oratoire": Diane Bosc: Second Place for Senior 1 français, Sara Haji: Second Place for Grade 8 français.

A final congratulations to the 42S Advanced Placement students who wrote their French language exam in May. Félicitations, tout le monde!

There is also a proposed school trip to Montréal-Québec being planned for next year's Grade 10-12 Basic & Advanced French classes in February 2010. Vive le français!

Youth In Philanthropy - Mrs. B. Letkeman, Mrs. A. Challes

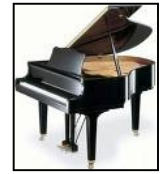
This student-led group was responsible for the allocation of \$5529.00 from the Winnipeg Foundation to local charitable organizations. Over the course of the school year, committee members in Grades 10, 11 and 12 decided upon our criteria for grant-making, researched local organizations and arranged site visits to selected charities. Our participants found it an invaluable experience to tour facilities and to gather information from staff and volunteers in order to make the selection of 10 deserving grant recipients.

The recipients for 2008-2009 were: Hospice and Palliative Care Manitoba, Huntington Society of Canada, Inner City Youth Alive, Knowles Centre, Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre, Movement

Centre of Manitoba, Tamarack Rehab, Teen Stop Jeunesse, Elizabeth Hill Counseling Centre and Villa Rosa.

We thank the St. Mary's Academy Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) Committee for its hard work and commitment to the program.

Allison Alvero (co-chair), Emily Ashley (co-chair), Yujin Kang (inter-school rep), Angela Verrelli (secretary), Jessica Aguinaldo, Ariel Boughen, Brittany Conway, Eun-Ji Lee, Charmaine Manalang, Luba Michno, Jenna Nixon, Michelle Peake, Kacey Preun, Samantha Reimer, Maria Santiano, Danika Semchyshyn, Julia Sisler, Everett Vun, Victoria Weir.



Private Music
Lessons
At SMA?
Piano
Music Theory
Beginning Guitar
Sister Josephine
Chudzik
284-3309

ART AUCTION 2009

From May 11th to 29th, the art room was filled with bids and counter bids for student art work. The current grade twelve group decided to break the all-time donation record of \$884.00. Their aim was to raise \$1 000.00 for the Bursary Fund and the Art Department. Their commitment was infectious and many terrific pieces were donated.

Not only did the auction break the \$1 000.00 mark but exceeded it by \$359.80!

Thank you to all students who shared their creativity and to those students who honoured that creativity by purchasing it.



Mrs. D. Nickel

Parents' Guild News - Ms. K. Dane

It is a very difficult task to reflect on the past six years at SMA in a restricted space but I will try my best. To coin a cliché, it seems like yesterday I attended my first meeting of the Guild. The Guild "family" became a link that brought the school, our daughters and the parents connected to one another to reach a common goal. That goal is being met June 26, 2009 for 104 graduates and their families. I cannot begin to express the pride I personally hold for the class of 2009 who experienced so many varied life lessons all the while staying strong for each other. Each of you "held high the torch" and have kept the spirit of St. Mary's alive. Bravo!

We have had a most successful year, raising almost \$70,000 through the tireless efforts of a most commendable Parents'

Guild. I wish I had the ability to thank each of you personally but if you are reading this article, you know who you are. Please know that God has blessed us with your volunteerism and you too shall be blessed in return.

Thank you to the incredible executive, conveners and volunteers I had the pleasure of working with the past two years as your President. I welcome and challenge the new executive to surpass our reached goals.

It is with great emotion that I pass the torch to Rita Serbin your newly elected and extremely capable Guild President. God bless you all as we take our turn at becoming alumnae of the most amazing institution we lovingly refer to as "SMA".



"Heaven Is..."

The reviews are in!

Our recent junior production was a smash hit!

As promised, this was a delightful, family-oriented play for kids of all ages. It was wonderful to see whole families come out to watch: from toddlers to grand parents.

The junior cast worked diligently for many months in preparation for this venture. Over 70 students participated and were able to bring many performing arts to the table such as gymnastics, voice and dance.

Naturally, a show of this size is only possible with the behind-the-scenes players! Our thanks to the director, production team, ticket sales team, costumers, make-up applicators and the many senior students and faculty members who helped to support this endeavour.

Stay tuned in September for news of our next junior production!



Artist Roman Swiderek has created yet another treasure - only this time as a special treat for St. Mary's. The Roman Swiderek painting of SMA, entitled *Back to School*, was unveiled at the Alumnae Gala Dinner May 2, 2009.

This stunning view of SMA is now gracing the wall above the main stairway at the front entrance to the school.

One hundred autographed, numbered prints are available for purchase through the Advancement Office.

FALL UNIFORM SALE

Tuesday September 8th and Wednesday September 9th, 2009

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that helped in the shop on Fridays and with the major sales. It takes a lot of volunteers to ensure that things run smoothly both in the shop and particularly during the sales. We are grateful to all of you who volunteer your time.

The Uniform store will be having an evening sale on September 8th and 9th for all students.

If you need any uniform items this is the time to get them.

Please remember that Halpern's accepts Visa, Mastercard, Debit card or cash, **but not cheques.**

If you are coming with your parents' credit card you must have a note signed by them authorizing you to use it.

We will be opening on Fridays during lunch hour starting September 11th.

Have a great summer!