



St. Mary's Academy

Volume 12

August 2008 Newsletter

Number 1

From the Director - Sr. S. Wikeem

I hope your family is having a pleasant summer. In a few weeks, the school office will reopen and the new school year will officially begin.

I am pleased to welcome new staff to SMA — Louise Danylchuk, Vice Principal; Brenna Bacchus, drama; Martha Franz, ELA, art and drama; Michael Macaraeg, math and science; Sandie Matheson, career counselling; and Carmen Sichevski (SMA '86), human ecology.

We will have a full house again next year with the bulge moving up to grade 10. The pressure for admissions the past couple of years has prompted the SMA School and SMA Foundation Boards to move forward with Phase 3 of the Facility Redevelopment Plan. Phase 3 involves renovation and expansion of the 1963 building. You will learn more at Parents' Night on Thursday, September 18th. In addition to hearing about our exciting plans you will receive other information about the school, and enjoy a wine and cheese reception hosted by the Parents' Guild. Come to meet the teachers and each other.

From the Principal - Mrs. C. Yunyk

I extend a heartfelt welcome to all students, new and returning, and their families to a new school year. Our mission is to educate young women within a Catholic faith community. Our focus this year will be to embrace and live our call to be *People of Hospitality*. Hospitality means being a gracious, accepting and welcoming presence for each person. It is not simply a matter of opening the door – it is a matter of opening the heart. Advocated by our foundress Mother Marie-Rose Durocher, this theme will permeate all aspects of school life, especially during our school wide retreat in October.

The school office opens Monday, August 18, 2008. Please read this newsletter carefully for information about school opening, student timetables, agendas, textbooks and lockers.

A Parent Information Evening has been planned for **Thursday September 18, 2008, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** in Alumnae Hall. At that time you will have the opportunity to meet members of the Parents' Guild, your daughter's teachers and the Administration team. After the general session there will be brief grade level meetings to discuss topics particular to each grade.

I encourage parents to maintain open and on-going communication with the school. I look forward to meeting and working with each of you during the coming year. It promises to be full of wonderful challenges and opportunities!



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Fall Uniform Sale September 2-3, 2008

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

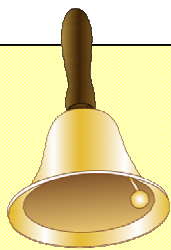
Payment must be made by Visa, MasterCard, Debit card or in cash. **Cheques not accepted.** If a student is coming with a parent's credit card, the student must have a note signed by the parent authorizing the student to use the card.

Starting Friday, September 5th the Uniform Shop will be open on Fridays during lunch hour.

Lockers – Students must purchase a combination lock from SMA at a cost of \$6.00. No other locks are permitted. Your locker number is



Your Name
Your locker number



School Opening

New Students

Orientation Day
Wednesday, Sept. 3

New Students meet in
Alumnae Hall at the following
times:

Grades 7 and 9
9:00 am —11:00 am

Grades 8, 10, 11, 12
10:30 am—11:30 am

Bring a pen, a binder
and paper

Uniforms not required

Meet your *buddy* and enjoy
refreshments



All Students

Thursday, September 4
Classes begin—Day 1

Homeroom lists will be posted
at school entrances and on
classroom doors. Students are
to proceed directly to their
homeroom for period 1.

At 8:30 am. should be in class
for opening exercises,
timetable and agenda
distribution and locker
assignment. Full winter or
summer uniform is required.
Bring school supplies.

General Information

School Calendar – a calendar of major events is available on the SMA website. The calendar outlines important dates including two major assessment periods (January and June) during which time formal exams are written. All students are expected to write exams on the day scheduled. A doctor's certificate is required to verify illness during exams. Parents are asked NOT to book holidays during exam time.

The school-wide retreat and school masses are important community building events that are mandatory for all students. Please do not make any appointments on these dates.

Student Timetables and Student Agendas – will be distributed in homeroom period 1(8:30 a.m.) on Thursday, September 4, 2008. The agenda includes the school calendar, general school information, policies and procedures, and student information. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this information.

Textbooks – On the first day of classes, teachers issue numbered textbooks to each student in the class. Each assigned textbook is the responsibility of the student to whom it is assigned. In June 2009, students are responsible for returning assigned textbooks in accordance with the following procedures:

Non-exam courses - at the last class

Exam courses - prior to the final exam in the lounge across from cafeteria

Exemptions in ELA or Social Studies – within the first 5 minutes of the final class period or during the specified lunch period in the scheduled classroom.



Students who do not return textbooks as indicated or who have damaged or lost textbooks must pay the replacement cost and a \$25.00 fine on June 24, 2009.



On the SMA Website – www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca

- 2008-2009 school calendar
- school supply list
- parking application
- this August newsletter

September Events

Opening Mass – Our Opening School Mass will be on **Friday, September 5th at 2:00 p.m.** in Alumnae Hall. Parents are welcome!

Grade 9 Welcome Day Friday, September 5 – Workshops and activities are being planned to facilitate the transition for all grade 9 students. Following the school opening mass, all students are strongly encouraged to stay to the end at 11:30 p.m. Details are included in the enclosed letter. Please return permission forms by deadline.

Parent Information Evening Thursday September 18th, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Alumnae Hall. At that time you will have the opportunity to meet members of the Parents' Guild, your daughter's teachers, and the Administration team

Walk for Breast Cancer – St. Mary's Academy students will be participating in a Walk for Breast Cancer on **Thursday, September 25th**. A \$10.00 flat fee will be collected from each student for a donation and to defray costs for student-led activities. Further information will be provided to students in early September.

Christine Skublics Scholarships and Awards 2007-08

Each year scholarships are given in memory of Mrs. Christine Skublics who was a teacher at St. Mary's Academy and our Principal from 1985-1990. The students awarded these scholarships have obtained the highest academic average for their particular grade level.

Recipients of the Christine Skublics Scholarships are:

- Grade 9 - Camille Glidden – 95.68%
- Grade 10 – Nicole Del Rosario – 95.9%
- Grade 11 – Jessica Enns – 96.3%

Recipients of the Christine Skublics Award for second and third highest in each grade are:

- Grade 9 - Rachel Dufresne, Hayley Guillou – 95.3%
- Grade 10 – Alanna Scammell – 95.4%, Charmaine Manalang – 94.9%
- Grade 11 – Breanna Mulhall – 94.5%, Christa Woloschiniwsky – 94.3%

Bob Ritchie Scholarship

In 1997 we were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Bob Ritchie, a parent and a member of our Board of Directors for five years. In his memory, his family established the Bob Ritchie Scholarship for Academic Achievement and Outstanding Involvement at SMA. The award winner must be in Grade 11 and returning for grade 12 in the fall, must be an honours student and must be involved in the school community. The recipient of the Bob Ritchie Scholarship is Breanna Mulhall.

Dorothea Hacker Scholarships

The Dorothea Hacker Scholarships were established in June 2004 by Dr. Dennis Hacker to honour his wife, Dorothea Hacker, who taught human ecology at St. Mary's Academy from September 1976 to March 1988. The scholarships encourage excellence in and continued study of human ecology at SMA. The scholarships are given to the students who have achieved the highest mark in human ecology in June in each of grades 9, 10 and 11 and who are enrolled in human ecology at the Academy the following year.

- Grade 9- Emily Cummings & Hayley Guillou – 92%
- Grade 10- Jenna Glidden – 86%
- Grade 11- Jaelyn Kuffel – 84%

Service Learning 2008-2009 @ SMA...

Last year SMA initiated a more detailed and comprehensive approach to service learning. The feedback from the various experiences our students had at their service sites was wonderful. Service learning is coming to the realization that service is not about what we do – it is about *who we are*. We will continue to live this dimension of our mission in the coming school year.

Service learning for 2008-2009 will include **ALL** students from grades 7 to 12. Students are welcome to start planning or serving at their site before the school year begins. Please refer to the website for the brochure, reflection questions, necessary forms for parents and service site supervisors, and possible service learning sites.

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us. (R.W. Emerson)

Where could your gifts serve those in need?

Alumnae Tea

The SMA Alumnae Association will hold its Annual Tea on **Sunday, September 28th**. All former students, parents, families, and friends of past and present students. There will a Mass at 12 o'clock in Alumnae Hall followed by the Tea in the cafeteria until 3:30 p.m.



This is a great opportunity for new students to introduce their extended families to

Grade 7 Camp

Grade 7 students will be at Camp Arnes from **Wednesday, October 15th to Friday, October 17th**. Camp is a community building and fun experience. Students will be supervised by Camp Arnes staff, SMA faculty and grade 11 student camp counsellors. The cost of attending camp will be approximately \$170.00; however, exact cost will be confirmed in early September.



Private Music

Lessons

Piano, Guitar & Music Theory

If you are interested in private piano, music theory, or beginner guitar lessons at the school please call for further information:

Sister Josephine Chudzik
direct line 284-3309.

International Day Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008

International Day is the Parents' Guild biggest fundraiser of the year. It is similar to Folklorama with delicious ethnic food, displays and entertainment.

Recent pavilions have included: Greek, Indian, Polish, Ukrainian, Celtic, Afro-Caribbean, Philippine, Argentinean, Mexican, Sri Lankan, Middle East, Vietnamese. It all depends upon the make-up of our school community. There is also a Craft and Bake Table, a raffle, a Rainbow Auction and delightful entertainment and wandering minstrels

The event is open to the SMA community and the public. Passports are \$2.00.

An event of this magnitude requires considerable commitment from our SMA parent community. Although International Day is a one day event, it takes weeks of preparation and many volunteers are required. Time commitments vary with the task.

Please take time to complete and return the enclosed Parents' Guild volunteer form. The Volunteer Committee will make every effort to assign you to the area of your choice.



From the Parents' Guild – Katherine Dane, President

The SMA Parents' Guild welcomes new and returning parents to St. Mary's Academy.

The Parents' Guild is looking forward to another successful year of fundraising and social events, which enhance the well-being of the school and benefit our daughters. We hope that parents, students, and their extended families and friends will join us in our events. The spirit of volunteering is alive and well at St. Mary's and we are pleased to share our time and talents, to continue the work of the Guild.

Thanks to returning parents and students for their contributions last year. In 2007-2008 the Guild raised in excess of \$64,000 from International Day (\$21,500), bingo (\$17,672), the Corner Store (\$6,613) and the Uniform Shop (\$18,368). This was spent on assorted projects, school activities and capital purchases including:

- A student agenda for each student
- Grade 8 field trip to see Walking with Dinosaurs
- Campus Ministry support to purchase chimes and a drum for liturgies
- Financial support to student education enrichments activities
- Financial support for the Bursary Fund
- Parents' Guild Academic Scholarship (to a graduating student)
- Parents' Guild School Citizenship Award (to a graduating student)
- Graduation diploma folders and a gift for each graduate
- Hospitality and catering for the staff appreciation luncheon
- Hospitality at Open House for prospective students and their families
- A drying rack for the art department
- A phonic ear to enhance sound in the classroom
- 4 computers, 2 smart boards, 7 LCD projectors and 4 AV screens for classrooms
- Promotional items for gifts and prizes

Please check the SMA website for activities planned for the coming year and opportunities to volunteer.

Our first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the lounge (Alumnae Hall entrance). Guild meetings are generally held the first Tuesday of each month. Please consult the school calendar. All parents are welcome to attend and participate. We plan Guild activities, decide how to spend the money we raise, receive updates on school matters from Sr. Susan Wikeem, Director of St. Mary's Academy, and give feedback, and make suggestions.

We look forward to meeting you and hope you and your daughter(s) will become involved in the larger community of St. Mary's. Your contributions of time, energy and talent will be very much appreciated.