



St. Mary's Academy

December Newsletter

Volume IV

Number 11

News from the Director - Sister Susan Wikeem



A big thank you to the SMA Parents Guild for another successful International Day. Profits from the raffle and pavilions total \$17,2000. A special thank you goes to Debra Marr for convening the event for a third year in a row.

Phase A construction continues behind the tall green fence. Foundations for the library, Uniform Shop and Guild storage are now in place. It won't be long before the walls will rise. Thank you to the families who have made a pledge. More funds are needed so that we can plan 3B which is the theatre production and athletic multi-purpose room. We are seeking a commitment from every SMA family - according to your means. The pledge form is available on the website.



At the end of this month we will say goodbye and thanks to Mr. Dale Swirsky who is leaving SMA after 15 years. We wish him happiness and success in future endeavours.

Deadline for new student applications for September 2010 is February 19th. Admissions information and forms can be found on the SMA website www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca. There will be an Information Evening on January 14th at 7:00 pm. for prospective students and parents. Please spread the word to your friends and acquaintances who may be interested. I encourage applications for grade 7, where the number of open spaces is highest. Enrolment at SMA has risen the past couple of years and is now at the upper limit. There are no plans to continue increasing the number of classes.

May this Advent season bring you a renewed sense of God's presence and love. And may your family have a peaceful, joyful Christmas.

Principal's Message - Mrs. C. Yunyik

This is an opportunity to remind you that our assessment period begins Thursday January 7 until Thursday January 21. A schedule of the common and cumulative assessments to be done during class time (55 minutes) during this time period will be posted on our website. Parents are asked not to book family vacations during this time as each assessment will have a value of 10% of the year's final grade. If you have any questions or need clarification, please call me at 478-6033 or email me at cyunyik@stmarysacademy.mb.ca (I will be checking for messages during the Christmas break).

We have been actively preparing ourselves since November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. During Religion class, at Wednesday morning Taizé prayer or centering ourselves at Take 5 at 1:25;

waiting for Christ's birth is central to the Advent and Christmas season and is seen as an opportunity to experience a spiritual waiting. His Spirit fills us with the desire that makes it possible for us to wait more patiently and with hope, to discover new ways to experience His presence in our lives. As we wait for Christ's coming in us, in others and the events of each day, may our openness to His coming help transform our world through his Love.

*Wishing you all the best in this joyous season of faith and love!
Merry Christmas and continued good health in 2010.*



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Dates to Note

WEDNESDAY MORNING MASS
Every Wednesday @ 8:00am
except Jan 13

DECEMBER

18 - 12:35 Dismissal

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

JANUARY

4 - Classes Resume

5 - 8 - Gr. 12 ELA Standards Test

7 - 21 Gr. 7-11

Mid Year Assessment

8 - 13 - Grad Photos

13 - Divine Liturgy @ 12:55

14 - Open House 7:00pm

21-22 - CLC Retreat

22 - No Classes

28 - Mission Colour Day

28 - Senior Dance/Grade 12 sleep-over

29 - AMS @ SMA

4-6pm - House of Peace

FEBRUARY

3 - Report Card Distribution

8 - 6 - Jr. Varsity BB Tournament

9 - Gr 12 Group Photo and Retakes

10 - P/T Conferences 5:00 - 9:00

11 - 12:35 Dismissal, P/T 1:20-8:00

12 & 15 - No Classes

Congratulations to Rachel Nickel!

Rachel achieved the highest academic standing for Grade 9 in the 2008/2009 school year. We had an unfortunate glitch in our computer program and as a result her average was miscalculated. We apologize for the error Rachel and wish you continued success in the 2009/2010 school year.

News from the Uniform Shop

Friday December 4th will be the last day that the uniform shop will be open before Christmas holidays. The uniform shop will reopen on Friday January 8, 2010. Our hours over the lunch break are 12:35 – 1:35 p.m. The shop will not be open January 22 or February 12, 2010.

Mark your calendars, the **SPRING UNIFORM SALE** will be held **April 13, 2010** from **5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please remember that you can pay with cash, debit card, Visa or Mastercard. **Halpern's does not accept personal cheques.** If you are sending your credit card with your daughter, she will also need a note signed by the cardholder indicating that she has permission to use the card.

Congratulations to Chelsea Caldwell

for receiving the **United Way Student Community Service Award** based on her community and school involvement in her Grade 11 year. This award is presented to one Grade 11 student each year in each participating high school in Winnipeg. Award recipients are youth who set an example for others by investing their time energy and talents in their school and community. *Way to go Chelsea!*

News From the Parents' Guild - Rita Serbin

On December 1st, 2009 the Parents' Guild welcomed past and present guild members to our Christmas party. After a brief business meeting we enjoyed a variety of appetizers, desserts and refreshments in the beautifully decorated boardroom. We had a surprise visit from Mrs. Claus. She shared the fun of the gift

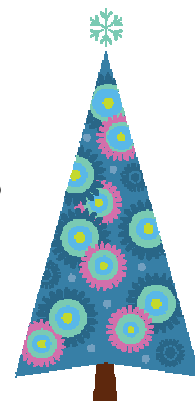
exchange with us. Special thanks to Kathleen Reid for organizing this festive event.

We hope parents can join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd, 2010 at 7:30pm in the boardroom.

International Day - Debra Marr, Leslie Finch

This year was another successful year for International Day. For the event 10 pavilions participated. Also, a Canteen, Donation Tree, Home Baking area, Raffle Basket area, and Rainbow Auction were in operation that day. The Lottery Ticket Raffle, Pavilions, and other operations realized a profit of

\$17,206. Thank you to all who came out and participated, and to all the pavilion convenors and volunteers who helped make it a success.



From the Career Counselling Office - Mrs. S. Matheson

University Planning

A weekly electronic newsletter is available to all Grade 12 students via their school E-mail address advising them on University Planning and applying for scholarships. Important dates or events pertaining to Career Planning are also advertised in the letter. The **Career Counselling Newsletter** is updated regularly on the St. Mary's Academy website for easy reference. Grade 12 students are reminded to frequently check their SMA E-mail.

Please note the career and university opportunities listed below:

February 17, 2010 –
University of Winnipeg Open House 5:00 – 7:00 pm

February 19, 2010 -
Early Application Deadline : University of Manitoba

March 1, 2010 –
Early Application Deadline: University of Winnipeg

Grade 11 Students Attend University of Manitoba Info Days

On February 18, 2010, Grade 11 students will be attending the **University of Manitoba Info Days**. This event offers students the opportunity to get a tour of the U of M Campus

and to find out more about programs, facilities, and the offerings at the university. The Grade 11 students will also receive information about the advantages of becoming an affiliate of St. Paul's College at the U of M. Students will be transported by bus to the Fort Garry Campus. Watch for parent permission forms and more information to come home in January. There will be a nominal fee to cover the cost of the bus transportation.

University Planning, Prerequisites and Math & Science Requirements

As students look ahead to planning their course options for Grades 11 and 12, they are encouraged to make careful choices and to select courses which will enable them to enter their preferred programs at the university level. The University of Manitoba has implemented changes to their math and science requirements for some programs of which students and parents should be aware. Specifics regarding these changes have been posted on the St. Mary's Academy website. Follow the *University Planning: Prerequisites and Requirements for the University of Manitoba* link. More information will be available to students during options planning meetings in the New Year.

Take Our Kids To Work Day - A Success! - Mrs. S. Matheson

Thank you to all parents and hosts who participated in **Take Our Kids To Work Day** on November 4, 2009. The day was a great success. Thank you also to the Grade 9 students, and particularly the Grade 9 representatives, for promptly returning permission forms to help organize the day. One hundred and

twenty-five St. Mary's Academy Grade 9 students were able to experience various careers and gain insights to many different types of work environments. The students will be following up on these experiences in their Career Counselling Classes.

On a Mission - Ms. L. Dart & Sister M. Gibney

As we scurry into Christmas, we look back on our past four months with gratitude. Our leadership team and so many of our homeroom reps have been conscientious and caring about those in need. Their weekly collections, baking, and "mini ticket sales" have consistently shown their support for those in need. Rossbrook, Pregnancy and Family Services, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Beyond Borders are a few of the agencies that have benefited.

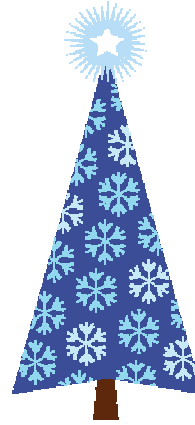
Our UNICEF campaign realized over \$2000.

Right now we are in the midst of our Christmas Hamper campaign. In the last few weeks, even alumnae have contributed with over \$200 in dona-

tions. This week a beautiful 'shoebox' hamper arrived, exactly according to our 'itemized list.' We hope to have 600 individual hampers for our sisters and brothers of the Immaculate Conception Parish Drop In. We are confident that this goal will be met.

Thank you for your continued support.

We wish each of you a Blessed Christmas and much joy in the year 2010!



Education a Gift We Share - Ms. J. Beauchamp

This year's campaign is drawing to a close and once again, the generosity, creativity and ability to pull together as a community has been awe inspiring and heart-warming. Congratulations are extended with gratitude to Jessica Armstrong, whose amazing card and its original motif has been so well received and praised for its outstanding design. A special thank you to our Mission Club, Leadership

Team and Ms. Beauchamp's Grade 11 Religion class, all who helped in many ways support and promote this program; thanks also to Sr. Marylyn for her help and Mrs. Nickel for her continual artistic support to the program. Finally, a sincere thank you to you, our SMA community, for finding so many ways to support and celebrate this program in your families, workplaces, and parishes! *Merry Christmas!*

Jesus our HOPE - M. Garlinski, Campus Ministry Office

This is our Advent focus. All classes have been given the symbol of stars, a gift bag and Christmas tree. Each day they choose a star from the bag which has a word written on it and they find the corresponding prayer in their bag and lead the prayer in the class. Then they place the star on their tree. The prayers all focus on people or situations such as family, friends, the poor, the sick, Mary, etc. that make Jesus more present in our world. *Jesus our HOPE* is revealed through these "stars".

In addition to this, Taize style prayer on Wednesday mornings, wrapping gifts at Villa Rosa, Remembering the Women (in honor of National violence against women day), celebrating the feast of

the Immaculate Conception and the *Con Spiritu* and *Con Fuoco* choirs to the Sisters residence at Despins and a lunch concert at the Millennium Library have all helped us get ready for Christmas.

In January, we look forward to our Wednesday Morning Masses, Open House, optional CLC retreat, and another AMS@SMA. Looking ahead to February please remember we will have the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast on February 16th beginning at 7:45am.

If you can help please email Ms. Garlinski at mgarlinski@stmarysacademy.mb.ca As we celebrate again the birth of the Christ Child, may your hearts and homes be filled with joy!

Annie Jr. - Mrs. M. Martino - Producer, Mrs. M. Franz - Director

This year's junior production of *Annie*, was a huge success, thanks to the talented cast, and dedicated senior students and teachers. Many students volunteered their time as producers, directors, choreographers, and staging crews. Thanks also to the SMA maintenance staff, parent volunteers, and of course, Desi, also known as *Sandy*, and her trainer, Grace McDonald. Without question, the play was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience and many compliments were received after each performance. Congratulations, ladies, on a job well done! You make SMA proud!



From the Accounting Office:

Charitable donation receipts for the 2008-2009 school year, for inclusion with your 2009 tax return, are being prepared and will be mailed in late January. Receipts for the 2009-2010 school year, for inclusion with your 2010 tax return, will be issued in January 2011.

The accounting office will be closed from:
December 25, 2009 to January 4, 2010

If you need to contact us during the Christmas break,

Brenda Van Raes will be available from:

Monday December 21, 2009 to Thursday, December 24, 2009

Phone: 478-6042

Tuition payments will be withdrawn from your account on January 4, 2010. If you require any changes to your payment, please notify us by

Wednesday, December 23, 2009.



Debating News:

The Junior Debating club is in full swing, having participated in one tournament and looking forward to several more in the next few weeks. The first tournament was at SJR and St. Mary's entered a record 8 teams. For many of the debaters it was their first ever competition, and Su Hyun and Kate Kresta were named the top novice and open St. Mary's debaters.

The next tournament is at SJR on December 15th. It's not too late to join debating — if you have been busy with sports or the Jr. drama production and now have some free time, we'd love to see you at our meetings on Day 12 in room 210 at lunch.

Cross Country and Basketball News - *Mr. D. Danyluk*

The Cross Country Running team made us proud this past fall with its dedication and commitment to early bird training. The number of participants was down from previous years; however we were still very competitive. The junior varsity team won the conference championship and placed third at provincials. At provincials Erin Teschuk became this year's individual junior varsity provincial champion conquering the very hilly and rough terrain at Spruce Grove Provincial park. The rest of the junior varsity team consisted of Andrea Kressock, Alexis Bailey, Diane Bosc, Monika Stanson and Vanessa Malach.

All of the basketball teams are in full swing. The Varsity team on December 3-5 competed in the Pembina Trails Invitational and did very well playing in its first three games. The Junior Varsity team plays in the Miles Mac Classic December 11 and 12 and are the defending champions at this tournament. The grade 9s are completing their tryouts and league play will begin in the new year. The grades 7s and 8s have shown great dedication and commitment to attending practices and developing their skills. Their season will begin after the Christmas break. All teams will be practicing during the holidays to prepare for the beginning of league play.

Home of the Flames - Volleyball Report - *Mrs. J. O'Leary*

7 teams, 95 athletes, 2 teachers and 13 volunteers are neatly folding and putting away volleyball uniforms, storing knee pads on the top shelf and hanging up their volleyball court shoes. As of December 5th the 2009 St. Mary's Volleyball season has come to a close. All teams experienced a wide variety of success and positive experiences on and off the court whether it be establishing new relationships or maintaining old ones, learning about volleyball extensively and developing active healthy lifestyle practices.

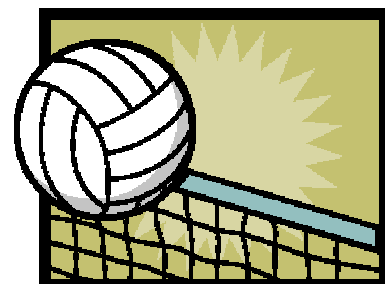
Here is a run-down of how our teams finished their season:

1. 50 Grade 7 athletes participated in four developmental, friendly tournaments within the Pembina Trails School Division.
2. The Grade 7 Traveling team participated in the Grade 8 "B" league and WON the championship banner.
3. The Grade 8 Team finished 3rd in the Pembina Trails Athletic Association and finished fourth at the Manitoba Volleyball Association Junior High Challenge.
4. The Grade 9 Team finished in 1st place and won the Pembina Trails Championship banner and finished in the top four at the Manitoba Volleyball Association Provincial Championships.

5. The Junior Varsity Team finished in 2nd place in the West Winnipeg Athletic Association Championship.

The Varsity Team won the Bronze medal at the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference Championships and then went on to make SMA history. For the first time in the history of volleyball at SMA, this team made it to the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Final Four Championships and lost a tough and very close match against Crocus Plains, Brandon. Danika Picklyk was named one of the tournament All-Stars and Danika and Mallory McIntyre were named one of the top ten High School volleyball athletes in Manitoba.

A very large and overwhelming amount of time, effort, commitment and dedication was devoted to the 2009 Volleyball program and the Athletic Department would like thank everyone who supported the athletes and coaches in their quest for success. If you have any questions, concerns or if you are interested in getting involved in our programs please don't hesitate to call.



Meal prayer for Christmas Day or during the Christmas Season

We rejoice in being together to celebrate our joy in Your great gift to us Jesus Christ your Son. Lord Jesus, hold us close to each other, unite us in spirit with those who are distant and with those who have died. In the peace of this season may the hungry be filled and the homeless sheltered, and may the unremembered be united especially through your love and peace at work in us. We remember especially those who have loved us in a special way this past year – who have been bearers of Jesus' love to us." (Pause for a moment of silence) "Lord, bless our food, our family, our friends. Help us to share our love."

A stylized Christmas tree with a green top and a brown trunk. The tree is decorated with small yellow and white squares. A bright yellow star with radiating lines sits atop the tree.