



St. Mary's Academy

October 2007 Newsletter
Volume II

Number 1

News from the Director

I was delighted to see so many parents at the Parent Information Night last month. I hope the information you received at the meetings was helpful. Many thanks to Tina Jones, and Banville and Jones for generously supplying the wine and cheese, and to the Parents' Guild Hospitality Committee for organizing the reception.

Please visit the new SMA website at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca. It is user friendly and contains up-to-date information about the school and activities. This newsletter for parents, along with previous issues, is posted in the Parents section along with Parents' Guild information and various forms. Students will be given a user ID and password for the secure SMANet portion of the

website. Through the SMANet students can email teachers, access the library catalogue and other library resources and find instructions on how to use their email accounts and how to access their files from home. As well, some teachers and departments may post information for students. At present, parents who wish to access the SMANet may do so by using their daughter's account (ask her for her user ID and password).

Congratulations to Connie Yunyk, Principal, who received the *Recognition of Outstanding Career for Community Achievement Award* from the Italian Chamber of Commerce, and to Brenda Van Raes, Accountant, who received the *Sharing Expertise Award* from the CGA Association of Manitoba.

International Day

Travel the world and get a glimpse of other cultures at **International Day** at St. Mary's Academy on **Sunday, November 4, 2007**. Bring the whole family. The cost for your travel to other parts of the world is only \$2.00 each (children under ten are free).

Start the day with the International Day Mass at 10:30 a.m. in Alumnae Hall. Then purchase lunch in the cafeteria at any of the countries represented. Return to Alumnae Hall during the afternoon where you will be entertained by local talent that will take you to the lands where their music originates. Try your luck with our monetary draw.

Raffle tickets have been sent home with the students. Please make an effort to sell them. At \$1.00 per ticket they will sell well. Advertise the day while selling the tickets. Individual pavilion raffles are also part of the International Day activities.

The ever-popular home baking table will be ready for business as well. Baking can be dropped off on Friday, November 2nd, Saturday, November 3rd, or Sunday, November 4th, before 1:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing you at this annual family event.

What's New at SMA

Schools in Manitoba are required to implement **Literacy with ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Across the Curriculum** for students in Grades K-8, with full implementation by the end of 2008-2009. Literacy with ICT is defined as choosing and using Information and Communication Technology responsibly and ethically to support critical and creative thinking about information and about communication as citizens of a global community. Three competencies will be developed over the course of the year: critical thinking to plan and gather information, creative thinking to produce and communicate

information; and demonstrating responsibility and ethics with ICT. At St. Mary's, these competencies will be infused in a collaborative approach between social studies and science teachers and Mrs. L. Mackenzie, who is directly responsible for implementing this curriculum at SMA. At each reporting period, parents of students in grades 7, 8 and 9 will notice a comment designed to inform both student and parent as to the developmental nature of progress being made. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Yunyk at 478-6033 or Mrs. L. Mackenzie at 477-0244, ext. 418.

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Dates to Note:

Oct. 17-19 - Grade 7 Camp
Oct. 18 - Amnesty Dinner
Oct. 22 - No School
Oct. 24 - Picture Re-take Day
Oct. 26 - 12:30 p.m. Dismissal
Oct. 26 - SMA Senior Dance
Nov. 1- All Saints Day Mass 8:35 a.m.
Nov. 4 - International Day
Nov. 7 - Grade 9 Take Your Kids to Work Day
Nov. 9 - Remembrance Day Service (11:30 a.m.)
Nov. 13 - CBS Blood Donor Clinic
Nov. 14 - Report Card Distribution
Nov. 16 - SMA Junior Dance
Nov. 20 - Parent Teacher Conference (2:50 -8:50 p.m. Early Dismissal)
Nov. 22 - Parent Teacher Conference (1:00 -8:50 p.m.) No School
Nov. 23 - Inservice - No School
Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2 - <i>High School Musical</i>

Walk for Breast Cancer

On September 19th, our entire student body and staff participated in the Walk for Breast Cancer. Each year, our senior high students join St. Paul's High School, and in more recent years, Balmoral Hall School, for a day to raise money, walk 5.5 km, and participate in activities at St. Paul's. Our junior school also participates each year, walking from St. Mary's to Assiniboine Park with their own walk and activity day.

This year St. Mary's Academy raised \$3000.00 for the Guardian Angels of Manitoba, our local Breast Cancer Foundation.

It was an incredible way to support such a worthy cause! Way to go girls!



Congratulations to fifty-six Grade 12 students who were presented with their Super Sixer pins at the Blessed Mother Marie Rose Mass on October 5th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all Grade 12 students as you enjoy and cherish your final year as students of St. Mary's Academy.

Invitation

Everyone is invited to join us for

Wednesday morning

Mass or prayer

starting at 8:00 a.m. in

Holy Names Chapel



Take Our Kids to Work

On Wednesday, November 7th every Grade 9 student in Manitoba will be invited to spend a day at work with a parent, relative, or adult friend. Permission forms will be sent out in the coming weeks. In the meantime, you may wish to discuss possible placement sites for your daughter. Please contact Mrs. S. Beaucage-Pena at 477-0244, ext. 263 if you require more information.

Education-A Gift We Share

SMA is continuing its **Christmas Gift Card** program entitled "Education - A Gift We Share" for our Holy Names Sisters and Associates teaching HIV/AIDS orphans in Lesotho, Africa. The minimum donation for a gift card will be \$5.00. You may wish to pay to sponsor a child's tuition for one year. Tax receipts will be made available for donations of \$20.00 and

higher. All proceeds will go to our Holy Names' schools in Lesotho, to pay for tuition and housing for HIV/AIDS orphans since government funding is not available for education in Lesotho beyond Grade 6. Further information on this important opportunity will be arriving in a letter home to parents in early November. Consider giving a Christmas Gift Card to someone special on your Christmas List.

Art Tour 2007

This past summer, a group of students, parents, teachers, and alumnae embarked on an amazing trip to Paris, Florence, Pompeii, and Rome. We experienced the art and architecture of civilizations past. The museums were filled with masterpieces and the streets lined with magnificent examples of architecture through the centuries. Our many adventures included saying hello to "Mona", making faces at the gargoyles of Notre

Dame, gawking at "David", marching through the Roman ruins of Pompeii, and being stunned into silence by the overwhelming beauty of the Sistine Chapel. According to some of the students, the trip was "life expanding". As one student said, "In spite of the early mornings and really late nights, each day brought to life our long awaited dreams". By walking through history, we have now become a part of it.

SMACKED

On October 1, **Team SMACKED** - the St. Mary's Academy Competitive and Kilted Elocution and Debate team - participated in the Annual Senior Douglas Campbell Public Speaking Championships which were hosted at St. Maurice School. Six of our finest public speakers represented our school in three categories: Impromptu, Persuasion, and Poetry/Peroration.

Congratulations go out to Alyssa Verelli, who took the Bronze Medal for her recitation of the

classic Longfellow poem, *The Wreck of the Hesperus*. Other notable finishes were Chelsea Caldwell, who placed 5th in Impromptu, and Kirstyn Koswin, who placed 7th in Persuasion. Fine performances were turned in from the balance of the team, namely Gabby Morrill, Julie Kiernan, and Anjali Sandhu.

On November 1, nine members of Team SMACKED will travel to Montreal to compete in the McGill Debating Tournament.

Manitoba in Motion

October 2007 marks the first anniversary of **Manitoba in Motion**, an initiative to promote physical activity. As part of the celebrations, we at SMA got "in motion" for 30 minutes at 11:30 a.m. on October 3rd in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the largest

number of people walking one kilometre at the same time.

This is not just about breaking a world record, it was also about starting a *Walkolution*. As a school community, we also plan to get "in motion" in January and May.

On A Mission

The mission club is off to a good start. Already we have sponsored a colour day for United Way, raising over \$1100.00. We also had a guest speaker on the situation in Darfur. Some students decided they would make bracelets to fundraise for our sisters and brothers who seem to have been forgotten by the global community. Some club members assisted at the October 6th Run 4 Darfur. With mission reps now in place, we will continue our weekly collections for various agencies. Planning has begun for the Unicef campaign for schools in Africa. We look forward to yet another good year!

Congratulations

Kady Evanyshyn, (Grade 7) is the winner of the Medal for Excellence for the Grade 3 Voice exam from Conservatory Canada. This represents the highest mark in that subject and grade in the province of Manitoba.

Congratulations to Nicole Evans (Grade 12) who placed third in the Manitoba Historical Society's essay contest for her historical fiction essay on Vaudeville in Winnipeg.

Congratulations also to Benedicte Le Maitre for winning Bronze in the Animal Science Biology category at the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium in May 2007.

Well done girls, we are very proud of you all.

Peer Counselling

Our Peer Counselling Team for this school year includes the following Grade 11 and Grade 12 students: Mel Love, Laura Danyluk, Breanna Mulhall, Christine Lam, Roxanne Gratton, Sara Craven, Stephanie George, Stephanie Chung, Izabella Supel, Paola Camorlinga, Chiri Martim, and Mackenzie Falk. The Peer Counsellors will be available to assist students seeking support in

problem solving and personal and relationship issues. These young women will be trained in listening and communication skills, conflict resolution, and bullying prevention, as well as, values clarification.

Their first training sessions were held on October 11 and 12 at the St. Charles Retreat Centre.

Changes in Counselling Services

Mrs. Dana Sigurdson, a recent graduate of the Masters in Educational Psychology and Counselling Program has joined the SMA faculty as a School Counsellor, along with Mrs. Beaucage-Pena, who will be supporting the students with Career Guidance. Mrs. Sigurdson will focus on supporting students with their personal, emotional and social development. She will be delivering school wide programs along with individual and small group counselling on various topics including relational bullying prevention, stress and anxiety

reduction, self esteem building and 'body talk' groups, peer counselling skills and healthy relationships. She is available to meet with students four days per week by appointment during the school day or on a drop in basis (she is not at S.M.A typically on Wednesdays). If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact her at 478-6044. Mrs. Sigurdson is looking forward to working with you, the students and parents of SMA.

YouthLeader

Another amazing team of ten students and two teachers represented SMA at YouthLeader 2007, the five day Christian Leadership Institute sponsored by the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. The group met participants from other parishes and had the opportunity to grow as a community by developing their leadership skills, recognizing their gifts, and reflecting on the choices and values that impact their lives. The team returned "pumped up" to share their skills. They have had time to

meet and further develop their project that was created at YouthLeader, R.A.K. Attack (Random Acts of Kindness). For more info about the project, check out the SMA website for the purpose and guidelines. The team was also instrumental in the first ever SMA Retrally with Jesse Manibusan (more details about that in the next news- letter and on the website). YouthLeader has been a real blessing for our community and we are looking forward to the

Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry is off and running at full speed this fall. By the third week of August, Grade 12 students were designing and preparing our "People Of Service" banner and the choir began practicing. September was all about launching our theme in every possible way, including the Service Learning program. The Grade 7 students had a chance to visit the Holy Names Chapel and were presented with their Bibles in a special ritual. We are beginning season two of Club L.E.M.O.N. and we had a great kick off with over forty participants! In preparation for their leadership role in the Retrally, the Grade 12's participated in a two day overnight retreat (this was a first for us at SMA!). The first six weeks

ended with a "mountain top experience" on October 5th, the first ever SMA Retrally (retreat and rally) led by Jesse Manibusan from Grapevine, Texas. For the real "scoop" about the experience, check out the next newsletter and our website. Justice Walking, an AMAZING program for students who want to live on the edge and live the Gospel in a radical way begins this month. Six students with Ms. Beauchamp and Ms. Garlinski will embark on this journey that could change their lives. Please keep them in your prayers! Mark your calendars, Catholic Studies trip 2008 to Collegeville, MN May 18-21. Brochures and registration information will be out by the end of October.

An Evening of Excellence

All Grade 11 and Grade 12 students with averages above 80% and their parents are invited to attend an *Evening for Outstanding Students* on October 16 at the University of Manitoba Investor's Group Centre and The University of Winnipeg Duckworth Centre on

October 23. There will be a formal presentation, as well as an information fair with 200 faculty members and students to answer all questions. For more information, call Mrs. Beaucage-Pena at 477-0244, ext. 263.



Autumn Prayer

*God of Autumn, the trees
are saying goodbye to their
green, - help us to let go
when we need to do so.*

*God of misty days and
harvest moon night, there is
always the dimension of
mystery in our lives. May
we gain strength from this.*

*God of the harvest - Grant
us patience when we do not
see the blessing.*

*God of geese going south for
another season, your wisdom
enables us to know what
needs to be left behind and
what needs to be carried into
the future.*

*God of flowers touched with
frost and windows wearing
white designs, may your love
keep our hearts from growing
cold in the empty seasons.*

*God of life, you entrust us
with the freedom to choose
life. For all this we are
grateful.*

Amen

News from the Home of the Flames

We are now six weeks into jumping, diving, spiking, serving, passing, and the 2007 volleyball season. Eight teams, composed of 95 athletes, are training hard and practicing with much enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication.

Three Grade 7 teams, under the committed coaching of SMA students Jessica Malach (Grade 10), Sarah Vadeboncoeur (Grade 11) and Daniela Catanese (Grade 12), will participate in three developmental tournaments this season. This year we have added a fourth Grade 7 team, the "traveling team", which will compete in competitive league play.

The Grade 8 Team, coached by alumna Lindsay Komishon, and Tom Falconer, and the Grade 9 team, coached by Ms. Rewniak, have finally been determined after much deliberation. The teams

have begun their seasons and both teams look forward to experiencing some high level play. The Grade 9 team successfully won the Lockport Tournament on September 29th.

The Varsity and Junior Varsity teams, coached by three extraordinary volunteers, Leanne Leskiw and SMA parents Brent Twist and Ken Chartrand, are currently competing at a high level of competition in the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference. Both teams are highly dedicated and work hard to maintain high standards of play. Come out and support our teams!

This year we have a certified Strength and Conditioning Fitness Trainer from Archer Athletic Therapy Services developing desired fitness levels, strength, and sport specific skills with the Junior Varsity and Varsity Athletes.

Canadian Universities

Grade 11 and Grade 12 students and their parents are invited to presentations from 50 Canadian Universities at St. John's Raven-scourt School, Wednesday, November 7th from 6:30-9:30 pm or

Balmoral Hall School, Thursday, November 8th from 7:00-9:00 pm. This is a must for any student who is considering post secondary education outside the province.

All are invited to the fourth annual

SMA Amnesty Dinner

Thursday, Oct. 18. at 6:00 p.m.

catered by De Luca's

Door Prizes

Homemade Desserts

This years theme is

Building the Global Village,

ethical purchasing in Winnipeg

\$200 gift certificate for 10,000 Villages will be raffled.

All proceeds will be used for SMA Amnesty campaigns.

Tickets are \$20 or 8 for \$120

For tickets, contact Dale Swirsky at dswirsky@stmarysacademy.mb.ca

International Day Pre-Orders

The following Pavilions will be accepting pre-orders for items that can be picked up at

International Day, November 4.

Ukrainian Pavilion

\$3.00 / dz. Perogies

\$3.50 /dz. cabbage rolls

\$3.25/dz. cabbage rolls for orders of 10 dz. or more

Please indicate whether you would like your bulk order in large roasters or 1 dozen packages.

Send cash or cheque along with your order to Mrs. D. Watkin c/o Lauren Hammond (Gr. 11) at SMA.

Greek Pavilion

\$7.95 Frozen Mousaka

(6 x 8 tray) each

\$4.95 / dz. Frozen Spanakopitas

\$4.95 / dz. Frozen Tiropitas

Orders are to be picked up at the Greek Pavilion on Sunday November 4th. To place an order please call Roula at 781-1742



News from The Corner Store!

The Corner Store staff welcomes all new & returning students to check out our line of SMA Sportswear! A complete listing of items and prices is available at www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca.

Coming soon – a new line of T-shirts, cool plaid hoodies and flannel PJ pants! Be sure to check with us often as these items begin to arrive for International Day and Christmas sales!

The Corner Store is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:35 to 1:35 p.m.

Please remember that we are unable to accept debit cards or credit cards but will gladly accept cash or cheques (made payable to SMA Parent Guild).

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

The Uniform Shop, located adjacent to the entrance to the cafeteria and staffed by parent volunteers, is open every Friday over the lunch break from 12:35 p.m. to 1:35 p.m. A percentage of all uniform sales is payable to the Parents' Guild and these monies are used to fund projects in the school. The 2007 SMA Uniform Shop Price List is available at the SMA web-site. There are some vintage uniform items available, check with the shop for the updated sale prices of those items.

PST is charged on all adult sized merchandise. If you are under 15 you must remember to fill out the PST exemption form that is in the uniform shop. GST is charged on all purchases.

Halpern's does not accept personal cheques as payment for merchandise purchased at the Uniform Shop. You may pay using cash, debit card, VISA or Mastercard. 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.

