



St. Mary's Academy

October 2011

From the Director - Sister S. Wikeem

I was pleased to introduce the Academy's new Strategic Plan, *Focus on Our Future*, at the September Parents' Night. Approved by the Board of Directors last June, *Focus on Our Future* is intended to provide a comprehensive roadmap for governance decisions and to present concrete goals and actions that will enable the Academy to achieve its Mission and Vision over time.

The Plan is posted on the St. Mary's Academy website www.stmarysacademy.mb.ca. Click on the link on the home page. I encourage parents and students to become familiar with the plan and I welcome any feedback you may have.

While you are on the home page you may want to

check the daily bulletin for an inside look at school life. And please take time to fill out, print, and send in a Parents Guild Volunteer Form. Convenors need workers, especially for International Day, the telephone committee and bingo evenings.

From time to time I scramble to find a replacement at Reception. For the most part the job entails directing calls that come through the switchboard, receiving visitors and deliveries, and "buzzing in" students after doors are locked. If anyone is interested in casual work please call me.

From the Principal - Mrs. C. Yunyk

This year we celebrate our call to be a PEOPLE OF JOY ...the most infallible sign of the presence of God!

I am always amazed at the energy, enthusiasm, excitement and activity generated at the beginning of each school year. Now seven weeks into the school year, I am delighted to report that students and teachers are settling nicely into a routine, concentrating on learning and participating in the many and varied extra-curricular activities offered at our school....there is a healthy pulse beating in our school! It is through the generous spirit of many people that all this is possible and I extend my gratitude to all.

We take pride in making sure all students get off to a great start. Each year in October, faculty meets to discuss students who may be experiencing challenges academically, socially and/or behaviorally. If it is determined that an action plan is required for your daughter following the student-centered meeting on October 20, our Student Support Team (consisting of Administration,

Resource, Campus Ministry, Guidance and Career Counseling) creates an action plan early in the school year to ensure success for all students.

This may include a conversation with parents and students or Child Guidance Clinic professionals or a referral to Mrs. Dart and/or Mrs. Sigurdson to help student work through a defined challenge.

Respectful and appropriate use of social media has become an important focus this year. In fact at our September 30 Professional Development day on technology, two guests from MECY were invited to share information with faculty on *Social Media in the Classroom* and *Safe and Caring Schools in Cyber Times*. It is becoming abundantly clear that parents also need to be informed and become more knowledgeable about creating a cyber-safe home for their cyber-savvy teenager. To that end, we are planning an information evening for parents on this very topic....stay tuned for date and time!

Here's hoping you all have a JOY-filled Autumn!

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Dates to Note:

- Oct 31: U of W Presentation to Gr. 12 P. 6
- Nov 2: Take Your Kids to Work Gr. 9
- Nov 6: International Day
- Nov 8: Early Dismissal 2:30 pm
- Nov. 9: Remembrance Day Service
- Nov. 10: Staff Retreat -No Classes
- Nov. 11: Remembrance Day -No Classes
- Nov 17: Report Card Distribution P. 4
- Nov 18: Mission Colour Day
- Nov 24: Early Dismissal 12:35
P/T Conferences 1:30-8:30pm
- Nov 25: **No Classes** Am Inservice
PM P/T Conferences
- Dec 2-4: Wizard of Oz Production
- Dec 8: **No Classes**; Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Dec 13: Early Dismissal 2:30 pm
- Dec 14-16: Mid Year Assessments
- Dec 22: Early Dismissal 12:35 pm
- Last day of Classes before Christmas



Congratulations
to
Alana Robert
who was
elected **Head**
Girl for
2011-2012!



Driver's Ed

Changes have been made to the way you register and pay for the Driver Education Program.

You can sign up at mpi.mb.ca/DL.CourseFinder.aspx or go to your nearest Autopac Agent.

For more information go to mpi.mb.ca and click on Driver Education.

SUPER SIXERS

Congratulations to **71** Grade 12 students who were presented with their Super Sixer pins at the Blessed Mother Marie Rose Mass on October 6th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all Grade 12 students as you enjoy and cherish your final year as students of SMA.

Invitation

Everyone is invited to join us for *Wednesday morning Mass or prayer starting at 8:00 a.m. in Holy Names Chapel.*



Mission Club - Mrs. L. Dart



The Mission Club has had a good start to the year. We have an energetic leadership team composed of: Alana Kreml, Leah Heppenstall, Alexis

Bailey, Nadine Zeid, Nissreen Zeid, Veronika Wierzbicki, Megan Linton, Lisa Gingera, and Maria Fiebelkorn. In addition, Mrs. Teresa Uruski has joined us as Mission Club Advisor. During the week of September 26th money was collected for the Terry Fox Foundation. On October 7th a Colour Day in support of Rossbrook House was well supported. During the rest of the month of October collections will be made for Hospitality House and Alpha House.

During the week of October 24th the Mission Club is going to be raising funds to support the poor children who attend the schools in Lesotho that are run by Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the same congregation that established St. Mary's Academy. The funds

raised will go to students in Lesotho who are totally dependent upon whatever food, clothing, supplies, tuition and medical care that the Sisters can provide. Many of these students are orphans as a result of their parents dying of HIV/AIDS. Every dollar donated will go directly to Lesotho with no advertising or administration fees deducted.

There are three ways to support the campaign: direct donation (cheques to *Fonds Aide aux Missions*); purchasing T-Shirts decorated with the slogan *Education is the movement from darkness to light*; purchasing beautiful molten glass pendant necklaces handmade by Mrs.

Barbara Kreml. We would like to thank you in advance for any support you can offer.



SMA Choir - Mrs. M. Morton

The St. Mary's Academy choral program continues to grow! This year there is a record number 41 students involved with *Con Spiritu*, the grade 8 to 12 choir that serves as music ministry at all our school liturgies. The credit course choir for students in Grades 9 to 12, *Con Fuoco*, is now in its third year, and has grown to 24 singers.

Con Spiritu began the year with a rehearsal and lunch on September 7, even before classes had begun. We've served as Music Ministry at 2 school Masses thus far, and participated in the Sisters of the Holy Names Celebration of the Anni-

versary of the 200th birthday of Foundress Blessed Marie-Rose Derocher at St. Boniface Cathedral on October 1. *Con Spiritu* also gathered for a Retreat/ Rehearsal Day on September 30.

Con Fuoco will be singing in an Advent concert featuring singer/songwriter Steve Bell at 7 pm on December 18 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

With more and more students becoming involved with music at St. Mary's, we can't help but be People of Joy!

Campus Ministry - Ms. M. Garlinski

Well there is nothing more exciting than a **JOYful** start to the year and it has been great! Campus Ministry has been busy with Youth Leader, Orientation Day, Grade 9 Welcome, Breakfast Club, Service Fair, Grade 12 Retreat Day, School Liturgies and Mother Marie Rose Week (including the 5th annual Retrally!) Our Campus Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) and many others have been working hard to support all activities in the community. As we settle into October and the heart of the Fall, we are looking forward to our regular Wednesday 8am Masses, Harvest Thursday and Jr. Club L.E.M.O.N. sessions. Please note the **JOYful** event coming Sunday December 18 @7pm at

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church...when our performance choir, *Con Fuoco*, will be performing with Steve Bell. Celebrate Advent and give someone a GREAT Christmas gift. Tickets are specially priced for our community, and they are going fast so please contact the Campus Ministry Office at 478-6045 to buy yours today!

As we celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Mother Marie Rose, may her steadfast love of God and audacious spirit continue to lead us as People of Joy!



SONGS OF THE SEASON

Steve Bell

Special Appearance by: *Con Fuoco*, St. Mary's Academy Performance Choir

Sunday, December 18th, 7pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church
4588 Roblin Blvd., Winnipeg

Tickets: \$15 (School only Price)
Available at Campus Ministry Office

Featuring Steve Bell's new album, *Kindness*



Take Your Kids to Work - Ms. T. Uruski

On **Wednesday, November 2, 2011**, Grade 9 students across the province will spend the day at a work place, job shadowing a parent, relative or neighbour. St. Mary's Academy is pleased to support this opportunity as part of our Gr. 9 career exploration program.

Our mission is to nurture partnerships among schools, businesses and communities, and to encourage caring adults to share their expertise, talents and resources with students. This day provides a positive learning opportunity for students which is both informative and exciting. Students will have a chance to reflect on their experience in light of exploring their own career inter-

ests.

During the 1st week in October, students were provided with information and permission letters for *Take Our Kids to Work Day*. Please review these handouts and ensure your daughter returned her signed permission form to her Career Development Class (either **Oct 12th/13th or 17th**).

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Uruski, Career Counsellor at 477-0244 ext. 263 or by email: turuski@stmarysacademy.mb.ca

Home of the Flames - Mrs. J. O'Leary

We are now 7 weeks into jumping, diving, spiking, serving, passing, and the 2011 volleyball season. Eight teams, composed of 90 athletes, are training hard and practicing with much enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication.

The Grade 7 athletes participated in their first "Friendship Tournament" on October 19th. St. Mary's volleyball athletes, Anika Campeau, and Katherine Pulak (Grade 12) and Lindsay MacCharles, Ariana Fiorentino and Emily McPherson (Grade 11) and Julia Frain, Dana Plett and Haley Walton (Grade 10) are committed to coaching and supporting these three teams. Three more developmental tournaments are scheduled October 27, November 7 and November 22nd.

The Grade 7 "Flames", coached by Mrs. Jen O'Leary will compete in league play which began on October 11th. The Grade 8 team with teacher and coach Ms. Adriane McElrea have been practicing hard and are looking forward to their upcoming league play on Monday's and Wednesday's as well. The Grade 9 team, with coach Tom Falconer began their season with a tournament at Ecole Charleswood Junior High where they finished in first place. League play began October 17th where the team works towards another Pembina Trails Athletic Association league championship. League games are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Junior Varsity team, coached by Jocelyne Roy, is currently involved in its league play with the West Winnipeg Athletic Conference. The team has competed in two tournaments at Sturgeon Heights and Miles Mac where it

finished in the top five. The team hosted the SMA Invitational tournament on October 14-15th at St. Paul's High School.

The Varsity team with long-time SMA coaches Leanne Leskiw and Christine Rewniak are currently ranked in the top five for High School teams in the Province according to the Manitoba High School Athletic Association. The team began its season with a first-place showing at the Brandon Crocus Plains Tournament for the third straight year, and competed in the Lord Selkirk Tournament on October 1st winning the Championship once again. The Varsity team hosted their own tournament on October 21-22nd. League play continues on Mondays and Wednesdays.

A big congratulations to Christine Rewniak and Leanne Leskiw who won the honor of the Manitoba High School Athletic Association September Co-Coaches of the Month. This is a huge honor and it is well deserved as Christine and Leanne are fabulous role models, dedicated coaches and very involved members of the Volleyball community in Manitoba. We are extremely lucky to have two such amazing women supporting our programs.

Congratulations to all teams on a fabulous start to the season! Stay tuned for more great information from the home of the Flames.

Thank you for your continued support of the athletic department. For more information or game schedules please contact Jen O'Leary, Adriane McElrea or Demetro Danyluk at 477-0244.

Golf Team - Mr. J. Villa

St. Mary's athletics got off to an excellent start this year with the SMA golf team winning the MHSAA Provincial Championship in Neepawa on September 23. Senior team members Jaclyn Albrechtsen and Nicole McGlenen led the way with rounds in the 80's, with other team members Hannah Diamond, Adrianna Pawlowsky, and Kathlyn Santiano all putting good efforts. The team beat last years winners, Nellie McClung Collegiate, to reclaim the championship, St. Mary's fourth in the last five years. Way to hold high the torch.



SMA Career Information Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/smacareerinformation/>

(University/scholarship/career info for gr.9-12 students)

Gr. 12's—University Planning: Individual planning session with Ms. Uruski –

All Gr. 12's are requested to sign up for a time to review their plan with Ms. Uruski before the end of October

November 2 - National Universities Fair: St. John's Ravenscourt, 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Parents Invited) **OR**

November 3 – National Universities Fair: Balmoral Hall, 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Parents Invited)

December 1 - Advanced Early Application Deadline – U of M & U of W based on Gr 11 marks (80% in English & 80% in 3 other 30S courses for the U of M) (65% in English, Math and 3 other 30S courses for the U of W)

February 24 - Early Admission Deadline – U of M based on Gr. 12 marks

March 1 - Early Admission Deadline – U of W based on Gr. 12 marks

Please note:

All students are encouraged to apply early for their universities or colleges of choice. Additional dates and information can be found on the SMA Career Information website: <https://sites.google.com/site/smacareerinformation/>

Access to SMA during School Hours

Please be reminded that from 7:30 until 4:30 all visitors to SMA should report to the Wellington Crescent Administration doors.

This includes all parents. We are proud of the safety measures we have in place for school hours. We ask your cooperation in respecting this request.

Special events

From time to time, our student leaders plan and implement special event days at SMA.

Parents are reminded that these are NOT optional days, as they are integral to building community and incorporating important values into all our activities. We consider

these events as learning beyond the classroom.

Test Dates

Students who, for a valid reason, miss a test will be required to write the test upon their return to school.

Make-up tests are administered on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:30 – 4:30.

Families are expected to make arrangements for their daughters to be present at the make-up test time.

Thank you for supporting these experiences by ensuring your daughter is in attendance.

School Closure - Inclement Weather

If it is necessary to close school due to severe weather conditions or failure of an essential service before the school day begins, an announcement will be made on various radio stations including CBC, CJOB and HOT 103, as well as, the SMA website.

When a storm develops during the school day, the school will remain open until 3:30 p.m. Students will not be dismissed until parents pick up their daughters.

When a service fails during the school day and it is determined the school should close, students will phone parents to make arrangements before leaving the school. On these occasions the school will remain open until 3:30 p.m.

Social Studies News - Mr. M. Saj

Congratulation goes out to the following SMA Students for their success at the Manitoba Heritage Society's awards for Historical Fiction. **Sehar Narpuri** took 2nd place and **Jasmin Geling** took 3rd. **Kennedy Meier** received 2nd place for the Manitoba Historical Society Research Award.

The Aboriginal Circle of Educators have selected six SMA students for recognition of their Heritage Fair Projects and have been invited to present at a con-

ference in 2012. Well done **Elizabeth Rivera, Melina Venuto, Katrina Zmavc, Jessica Thompson, Erin Teschuk and Claire Aiello.**

Preparations are underway for the 2011-12 Heritage Fair which will be taking place Thursday March 8th, 2012.

News from the Parents' Guild

Parents Guild

International Day

Travel the world and get a glimpse of other cultures at the 37th Annual International Day at St. Mary's Academy on Sunday, November 6, 2011. Bring the whole family. This event is our largest fundraiser and all net proceeds go directly to the school to purchase items to enhance the educational experience of our girls at SMA. Last year we raised over \$25,000 through the many volunteer hours of our parents and the generosity of our community.

Start the day with the International Day Mass at 10:00 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 and dance originate. Try your luck with our cash lottery and or the many baskets available at the Rainbow Auction.

Cash lottery raffle tickets have been mailed to your home. We ask every household to purchase or sell at least one book per student to assist in our fundraising efforts. Books are \$30 each (tickets \$2).

All books (sold and unsold) must be returned to the school by October 24th.

The ever-popular home baking table will be ready for business as well. Baking can be sent with the girls on Friday November 4th or dropped off in the cafeteria on Saturday, November 5th or Sunday, November 6th before 1:00 p.m.

We are also always looking for donations of items to be assembled in baskets for the Rainbow Auction. These can be dropped off anytime at Reception. Please label items with your name and also indicate Rainbow Auction.

If you would like to volunteer for set up of International Day on Saturday the 5th or at the event on Sunday November 6th please contact Bonnie Cadieux at bcadieux@mts.net. We have many different opportunities to you to contribute!

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

Cornerstore News

Come check out our new SMA sportswear for 2012 at the Cornerstore.

Shop early and beat the Christmas rush.

The Cornerstore is open everyday 12:30-1:30 pm except Tuesday.

You can also visit us at International Day, as well as Parent-Teacher Interviews.

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