Senior School Principal’s Message

Mrs. Michelle Klus

It is hard to believe that there are less than five months remaining in this school year. We wish the students all the best as they continue to learn and grow. Plans are already well underway for next year including the school calendar, re-registration of current students, course electives selection as well as the admission process of new students into our community.

Option (electives) and Program Information for students currently in Grades 8 to 11 will take place on Tuesday, February 21 during the school day. There is also a Course Option (electives) Information Meeting for parents that will take place on Monday, February 27 at 6:30 in Alumnae Hall. Parents are encouraged to review the Electives Sheet with their daughter(s) before signing and returning it to the school office. The forms will be accepted in the school office between February 28 and March 3. As some electives have only one section and space is limited in the senior grades, it is very important that the sheet be returned as soon as possible to ensure a spot in that course. A reminder that Report Card distribution will happen on March 3 and Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on March 9 and 10.

Keeping our students focused on their school work and commitment to school clubs and teams is essential over the next few months. Parental support plays a crucial role in the successful completion of the school year. We appreciate being able to work collaboratively towards success for our students.

Junior School Principal’s Message

Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie (van Es ’80)

School life in Junior School is in full swing!

Our Mid-Year assessments are completed, and we are now gearing up for our second half of the year. Teachers will be busy preparing the next formal report card. We look forward to seeing parents and students at the next round of conferences in March to discuss your daughter’s progress in achieving the grade level outcomes. As well, teachers will be completing reports for the provincial Department of Education and Training that further specify your daughter’s progress in ELA and Math. These provincial reports will accompany your daughter’s SMA report.

Our junior students continue to bring joy and energy to our building. They were, by far, our greatest group of volunteers for our Open House. How heart warming to see them smile to our face, and an eagerness to participate that is energizing to witness.

Junior School students with Ms. Sichewski ’86 at our Open House
Supporting Adolescents in Today’s World

**Mrs. Carol-Ann Swayzie (van Es ’80)**

This is a space to provide information to families that you may find helpful as you journey through the adolescent years with your daughter(s).

**Article**
From Judy Willis, neurologist and educator:
**What You Should Know About Your BRAIN**
www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/journals/ed_lead/el200912_willis.pdf

**TED Talk**
**We’re raising our girls to be perfect, and we’re raising our boys to be brave, says Reshma Saujani, the founder of Girls Who Code. Saujani has taken up the charge to socialize young girls to take risks and learn to program — two skills they need to move society forward.**
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**Book**
**Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions into Adulthood** by Lisa Damour, Ph.D.
Videos and discussion questions to support this book are found at www.drlisadamour.com/untangled/

Charism and Mission Office

Sr. Michelle Garlinski ’88, SNJM

February is known to be “heart” month. With Valentine’s Day and the Heart & Stroke Foundation canvassing, it seems like a great month to launch the theme of our Retrally “Women at the Heart of Change”. This theme will carry us through to our Ash Wednesday service and throughout the weeks of Lent.

Public Way of the Cross
April 14, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.
St. Mary’s Academy
The SMA Community is co-sponsoring the Public Way of the Cross with the Archdio-

cese of Winnipeg Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office. Our focus, Living Peace Through Justice, Together guides our footsteps as we process through the neighborhood on Good Friday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Academy. This is a prayerful way for us to gather as a community of believers to pray, sing and remember the injustice of the cross and the continued injustices that surround us today. Yet, as the cross was transformed into a sign of hope and love, so too can the challenges in our time. This is truly a community event as students, staff, parents, alumnae and the SNJM community are involved in the planning and preparations.

Volunteers Requested
If you would like to help by carrying the cross, reading, hospitality or crowd control, please email me at mgarlinski@smamb.ca by March 25th. As we prepare for the Lenten season, a time to pause and take stock of our relationship with self, others and God; may our hearts be open to change. Blessings on our Lenten Journey!

Campus Ministry

Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Weight ’90)

January went by quickly as we hit the ground running with our Campus Ministry reps Breakfast Club preparing for the Open House at the end of January and the J-Walkers were able to visit and serve at the Welcome Home twice in January and then again first week of February. The students are enjoying building community with the families that are there each week.

This month, AMS@SMA (A Monthly Service) went skating at the Freight House with the kids club from IRCOM and we are looking forward to going to Ronald McDonald House to help with baking and crafts on March 16.

We were pleased to host the annual Retrally which took place during Catholic Schools Week on February 15th and 16th, and it was our pleasure to have Development and Peace as our partners. The theme was Women at the Heart of Change and we focussed on justice and action and explored amazing women in our personal lives and in the world.

Coming up is our annual Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Pancake Lunch on February 28th. Campus Ministry reps will be selling tickets ($5.00 each) in their classes and in front of the Cafeteria from February 21 to 24. This is a wonderful way to celebrate community as we prepare to enter into Lent with the school wide Ash Wednesday Service on March 1.

Library

Ms. Sheryl Chongva & Ms. Kelsey Jennings

I Love to Read Month
We dove into different worlds with this year’s I Love to Read activities. Many discussions were held around the “Ultimate Villain Survivor” board on the pros and cons of each villain’s characteristics based on the 10 daily challenges. A school-wide scavenger hunt was held to locate the Most Wanted Villains. Our annual book drive was a success for the third year in a row with books being donated to inner city reading programs. Thank you to the student teams who coordinated the book drive, the scavenger hunt and the daily challenges. Thanks also to the Faculty and Staff for their support.

Drama Department

Ms. Laura Davey ’05

We are busy creating theatre over here in the Drama Department. We are currently working on three Senior High Performance Exams! Three different shows are being designed, rehearsed and costumed simultaneously across four grades! These are exams for our Drama students, worth 30% of their final grades in the course. Our Grade 9 students are working on selected excerpts from The Diary of Anne Frank (performance on March 15). Our Grade 10 students will be working on scenes from Agatha Christie’s well-loved mystery The Mousetrap (performance on April 27). Our Senior Class (Grade 11 & 12 students) will perform Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, JR (performances on May 25 in the afternoon and evening). As always, parents of the students performing are welcome to attend to celebrate all of the hard work these girls are putting into their shows! Your daughter will have further information, or you can contact Ms. Laura Davey at ldavey@smamb.ca if you have questions. Break a leg, ladies!

Parent Teacher Conferences

We are pleased to announce that the process for booking appointments for the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences in March will be done entirely online. As the time for reports cards and conferences approaches, all families will be given more specific information and detailed login instructions to access the Conference Manager program and book your preferred time slots. Stay tuned for more details.
From the Career Counsellor

Ms. Teresa Uruski

Gr. 11 & 12 Post-Secondary Planning

NEW: Evening Parents Program at the
U of M Open House on Feb 23, 6-8 p.m.
Register online at http://umanitoba.ca/student/es/evening-parents-program.html

Gr. 12 Post-Secondary Planning

March 1, 2017 is the application deadline for
scholarship consideration at the U of M and
U of W.

All students who have not sent a request to
Ms. Uruski to mail their official school
transcript to out of province post secondary
institutions are reminded to do so ASAP.
Details with the information of where it needs
to be sent along with their assigned student
number for that post secondary institution
should be included in the email. Email
turuski@smamb.ca

Gr. 11 Post-Secondary Information Sessions

Grade 11 students will attend the U of M
Open House on Feb 23. This event offers
students the opportunity to tour the Campus
and to find out about program offerings.
Students will also be informed of the advan-
tages of becoming an affiliate of St. Paul’s
College at the U of M. Representatives from
both the U of M and U of W met with
students on February 6 and 15 to review
program and faculty options including the
review of high school course requirements.

Gr. 10 Career Development Classes

All Grade 10 students started their Career
Development Classes in February. They will
also have an opportunity with their parents
to meet with representatives from the
Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg and
Red River College as part of SMA’s
Post Secondary Information Evening at
7:30 p.m. on February 27.

Students will attend the Rotary Career Sym-
dposium on March 15 where they will spend
the day learning about a variety of career and
additional post-secondary educational op-
portunities. This activity is mandatory for all
Gr. 10 students. Further information, along
with a permission form, will be provided to
students at the end of February.

Gr. 12 Advance Placement Students

All students currently enrolled in our AP
classes at SMA will receive an information
package regarding the option to sign up for
the Advance Placement Exams which are
offered by the US College Board during the
month of May. Students are asked to review
this option with their teacher and parents
and return their Intent Form by March 3.

Mission Club

Ms. Teresa Uruski

During the month we are raising funds
to support our SNJM Sister Schools in
Lesotho, Africa. A Colour Day was hosted
on Feb 10 and raised $1000. Additionally, a
number of homerooms have planned extra
fundraising events. Our goal of $2000 will
assist in providing support for educating the
children who live in the orphanage, and to
students living in poverty who are unable to
attend school without bursary assistance. The
SNJMs provide direct care for children in the
orphanage along with helping countless
families in need with food, medication and
finances. If you would like to make a dona-
tion, please contact Ms. Uruski at
204-477-0244 or turuski@smamb.ca.

Yes you CAN

Food Drive for Winnipeg Harvest

From February 27 to
March 3 the Mission
Club will be collecting
food items for Winnipeg
Harvest. Students and
staff are encouraged to bring in
nonperishable items throughout the week.
Our goal is 1000 food items.

Basketball

Ms. Adriane McElrea

Our basketball season is off to a great start
with four Flames’ teams — Varsity, Junior
Varsity and two combined grades 7 and 8
teams.

The Varsity team is led by coach Audrey
Dragojevic and assistant coaches Danielle
MacKenzie ’16, Laura Sachvie ’16 and
Caitlin Madden ’16.

The JV team is led by head coach and SMA
teacher, Deb May, and assistant coach Kaela
Cranston ’11. The JV team came in second
place at the annual SMA Invitational
Tournament.

Our two grades 7 and 8 combined teams
are called the Red Flames and the Blue Fire.
The Red Flames team competes in the
Nash division of the Pembina Trails Athlet-
ics Association, the second highest tier in
the league. This team is coached by two
former SMA basketball players, Sydney
Loewen ’14 and Dayna Roeland ’13. The
Blue Fire head coach is Sheila Howe. This
team competes in the Triano division of the
Pembina Trails Athletics Association, the
highest and most competitive tier in the
league.

To see rosters and results of games for
Varsity and JV teams, go to our website
stmarysacademy.mb.ca/home/academy_life/
athletics/basketball/. And, please
check out our Athletics Instagram
account, @smaathletics, for
updates on all of these teams.

Our program is blessed to have a great
squad of talented athletes and a committed
group of coaches, including six of our own
SMA alumnas!

Track & Field

Mr. Demetro Danyluk

The Flames’ Track and Field team has many
hardworking grades 7 to 12 students training
in the morning, lunch and/or during spares.
These athletes are competing in multiple
events at various indoor meets held at the
University of Manitoba and they are perform-
ing very well. Their training and competing is
preparing them well for the outdoor season.

It is never too late to join the team, however,
sooner is better than later. The outdoor season
will begin right after Indoor Track & Field
ends, and that will happen before Spring
Break until the middle of June.
If you would like more information, contact
Mr. Danyluk, ddanyluk@smamb.ca.
Alumnae Affairs
Mrs. Kerri Moore (McIvor ’94)

The Alumnae Relations office is busy preparing for some great upcoming events! The Alumnae Association is hosting Paint Nite on Friday, March 3 in the cafeteria. Tickets are available at www.paintnite.com/events/1141203.html.

The annual Marian Awards for Excellence Celebration takes place on May 13th at The Gates on Roblin.

Planning is underway for Homecoming 2017, which will be held on Saturday, September 30. This year we welcome the Classes of 2007, 1997, 1992, 1987, 1977, 1967, 1957, 1947 and 1937 for their commemorative years’ celebrations. All of our SMA community is welcome to attend Homecoming!

From the Parents’ Guild
Mrs. Candace Paryka

The SMA Guild hit the ground running in 2017! On January 21 we hosted Torch Talks with three outstanding speakers, Mitch Bourbonniere, Sr. Michelle Garlinski ‘88 and Elder Mary Wilson. Their messages were meaningful and resonated with the audience. Thanks to Kristi Cumming (Stuart ’89) and Charmaine Cancilla (Anderson ’92) for co-chairing this warm and rejuvenating event.

We were happy to be involved with An Evening at the Academy by donating Nun Fudge that was made by parent volunteers. The fudge was a take-away gift for each guest at the event.

Advancement
Ms. Georgine Van de Mosselaer ’83

Wasn’t That a Party! Thank you to the many parents, students, staff, alumnae, guests and sponsors, especially the SMA Parents’ Guild, for their support at our 2nd annual An Evening at the Academy – Igniting Hope, which was held on Saturday, January 28. The sold-out fundraising event is held at our school, yearly, to support the Mother Marie Rose Bursary Fund. With a goal of $75,000 this year, we are happy to announce that over $87,000 was raised for the Bursary Fund!

In the 2016-17 school year, 78 students received bursary funding for tuition assistance, totaling over $325,000. This assistance is in line with one of SMA’s guiding principles — “Integral to the SMA ethos is the commitment to building a school community which respects the dignity of the human person that reflects the diversity in our church, and one that welcomes students from varied socio-economic, religious and ethnic backgrounds.”

Save the date on January 27, 2018 for the 3rd annual An Evening at the Academy. If you wish to be on a “first in line” list for this event, please contact Georgine Van de Mosselaer at 204-478-6030 or gvandemosselaer@smamb.ca. Don’t delay, as tickets sold out in two weeks for our 2017 event. See you there!

Accounting Office
Ms. Brenda Van Raes

The Income Tax Act allows SMA, based on its fiscal year of operation, to issue a charitable donation receipt for a portion of tuition fees. Our fiscal year end is June 30. We must complete the entire school year before we can determine the charitable portion of tuition.

Charitable donation receipts for the 2015-2016 school year, for inclusion with your 2016 tax return, will be mailed on February 17.

If this is your daughter’s first year at SMA, you will not receive a donation receipt for the 2016-2017 school year until February 2018.

Note, the donation receipt must be written to the person who made the payment (i.e. the name on the cheque).

If you have questions, feel free to call me at 204-478-6042 or email bvanraes@smamb.ca.

Dates To Note
February 2017
17 No Classes: Catholic Schools Day
20 No Classes: Louis Riel Day
22 Grad Group Photos and Individual Retakes
27 Course Options Info. for Parents, 6:30 p.m.
28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch
28 Pascal, Cayley, Fermat Math Contests
27-28 Wpg Harvest Food Drive

March 2017
1-3 Wpg Harvest Food Drive
1 Ash Wednesday Service 11:35 a.m.
3 Report Card Distribution, Period 4
7 Parents’ Guild Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
9 Parent-Teacher Conf. 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
10 Parent-Teacher Conf. 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
10 No Classes
14 2:30 p.m. Dismissal (Staff Mtg Schedule)
17 Colour Day supporting disadvantaged people of Wpg/Esther House
16-19 Female World Sport School Challenge
21 Student Re-Registration Deadline
23-24 Spirit Days
27-31 Spring Break
Apr 3 Classes Resume

Human Rights Dinner
Save the Date Thursday, May 11
an initiative of SMA’s Human Rights Team
Flames Blue Fire, Consolation Champs in the George Waters Middle School Invitational

Retally at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue with guest facilitators from Development and Peace
(On the left) Rachelle Rocque, Christina Kruszewski, Megan Marques.
(On the right) Mrs. Joanne Steeves (Campus Ministry) and Sr. Michelle Garlinski (Charism and Mission Office)

Open House

Go to www.smaphotos.ca to view pictures of various SMA events