

# St. Maurice School



ST. MAURICE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 5

January 2017

## From the Parish...

*Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord! -Ps 96*

Merry Christmas! What a joy to wish each and every one of our SMS students and families a Merry Christmas! This is such a special time in the life of our Church, in the life of the world – we celebrate the birth of Christ, our Savior, coming into our world. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend some time reflecting on Christ's presence in our lives. Where do we see him, how do we experience Him? Perhaps in our children, our loved ones, those who uplift us and love us... A warm embrace, a friendly hello, a "thinking of you" message... Through prayer, Mass and the Sacraments. We should not forget that Christ is also present in our times of struggles, in the times we seek forgiveness or to forgive, and in our times of need. Christ came for all - yesterday, today and always. Truly we can say (or sing) Joy to the World! Such cause for celebration!

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you as you celebrate Christmas and the New Year as well!

Nicole Savard,  
Director of Campus Ministry

## Admin Message

May I wish you all a blessed, safe and prosperous 2017. Students are now well into their regular routines. Grades 8 to 12 exams commence Thursday, January 26. As it will be the first time our Grade Eights write exams, Student Services and Administration will present to the students on such practical topics as study skills, learning styles and preparing for exams. I encourage you to speak with your son or daughter and help him/her develop a realistic plan of study that will adequately prepare them to do their best. Please see "Study Skills Tips" in this newsletter.

The teachers are available to provide extra support. Encourage your child to take advantage of this offer. Please have your child attend Study Hall before or after school and see Mr. Bennett, (Vice-Principal, K-8) or Mr. Sagriotis (Vice-Principal, 9-12) should they need a student tutor.

*Cont'd on page 2*

### Inside this issue:

FROM THE PARISH...	1
ADMIN MESSAGE	1-2
IMPORTANT DATES	2
CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS	3
SPEECH AND DEBATE NEWS,	4
CHRISTMAS HAMPERS, ST. MAURICE OPEN HOUSE,	5
EXAM STUDY SKILLS TIPS-	6-8
GRADES 8-12 JANUARY EXAMINATION SCHEDULE	9

# Volume 16, Issue 5

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## Admin Message cont'd

We look forward to meeting prospective students and their parents at 7:00 p.m. for our **Public Open House** on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> (grades 7-12) and on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for K-6. Please tell your relatives and friends about this opportunity.

Our Basketball teams will commence their regular season play sometimes soon. Good luck to all of our Basketball players. We encourage you to come out and cheer on our squads, Go Patriots!

As a reminder, children who have not signed up for the Before School Program are not to be dropped off in their classroom prior to 8:30 in the morning. Additional children brings the ratio over an acceptable standard set by Manitoba Daycare Office. Elementary students not registered for the Before School Program must wait outdoors until admitted by school staff at 8:30 am.

God bless,

Patrick Bennett  
Vice-Principal ( For K-8)



## Important Dates

January 9 Classes Resume after Christmas Break

January 26-February 2 Grades 9-12 exams

January 30-February 2 Grade 8 exams

February 3 No school for Grades 7-12

February 6 Term 2 begins

February 10 Grades 7-12 Report Cards distributed at 3:30 pm

- Parents/Guardians are asked to sign and return the "Report Card Reply Slip"
- Please also complete the "Parent-Teacher Interview Request Form" should you wish to meet with any of your child's teachers.

February 13 Grades 7-12 Report Card Reply Sheets due back

February 16 Grades 7-12 students will be dismissed at 11:20 am

Grades 7-12 Parent-Teacher Interviews, 1:00-6:00 pm

February 17 Catholic Schools Day In-service (no school for K-12)

Grad photos taken (pre-booked appointment times)

February 20 Louis Riel Day Holiday (no school for K-12)

February 23 Grades 7-12 Parent-Teacher Interviews, 4:00-9:00 pm





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[www.stmaurice.mb.ca](http://www.stmaurice.mb.ca)

Phone: 204-453-4020  
Fax: 204-452-4050  
E-mail: [info@stmaurice.mb.ca](mailto:info@stmaurice.mb.ca)

## Campus Ministry News

On Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 16 of our grades 8 & 10 students spent the morning serving at Agape Table. The students had an opportunity to prepare and serve breakfast, clear dishes, wash floors, wrap Christmas gifts for their upcoming children's Christmas party and learn more about the different resources that Agape Table provides, and what the needs of the community are. Most importantly, and likely most memorably, the students had a chance to talk with the breakfast guests. It was a beautiful experience, serving some of our city's most in need.



Recently, some of our grades 1, 3 & 4 classes made beautiful Christmas cards for our 130 neighbors next door at the Rotary Villa. Thank you students for sharing the joy of Christmas with our neighbors in such a nice way!

The grades 6-8 students have an opportunity to go Christmas caroling at the Southeast Personal Care Home (1265 Lee Blvd); 2 dates and times are available and there is a maximum of 20 students allowed per visit:

Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2:00-3:00pm

Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:00pm

Please RSVP with Nicole and be sure to come dressed Christmasy!

Several service opportunities have been lined up for the first few months of 2017 and will be presented to each grade accordingly (grades 3-12; each opportunity will be for different ages); these opportunities will be evenings/weekends: Winnipeg Harvest, Siloam Mission, the Salvation Army, the Spence Street Thrift Shop, the Canadian Cancer Society and the Alzheimer Society. More opportunities with other organizations are also being worked on. Be sure to watch for information to come home.

*~ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. –John 13:15*

Nicole Savard  
Director of Campus Ministry

## Speech and Debate News Fall-Winter 2016

The St. Maurice Debate Society competed in a variety of inter-collegiate competitions this term including The Douglas Campbell Public Speaking Tournament, held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, at St. Maurice, The Catholic School's League Meets, at St. Paul's and St. Mary's on November 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and The Rupertsland Tournament, at Balmoral Hall, on December 4<sup>th</sup>. This year's club members are Sebastian A. ['17], Max O. ['17], Sukhsagar S. ['18] and Japugee M. ['19]. Special congratulations go out to Max for winning the Bronze medal in the Catholic School's Tournament. Max was also St. Maurice's top competitor at the Rupertsland Tournament, whereas Sukhsagar was St. Maurice's top speaker at the Douglas Campbell event. Also, The St. Maurice Junior High Debate Club hosted its first tournament, which was co-ordinated by Mr. Godwin Cotter and Mrs. Lana Jorgensen, on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Despite being in the midst of digging out from a major snowstorm, a good time was had by all. We look forward to another series of debates in the new Year!

Shaun McCaffrey  
Head Coach  
St. Maurice Speech and Debate

### St. Maurice's Long-time debating coach recognized at National Debating Tournament

St. Maurice's Long-time debating coach recognized at National Debating Tournament

There can be no debate: St. Maurice's very own debating coach Mr. Shaun McCaffrey is among the very best. In October Mr. McCaffrey was recognized at the National Debating Seminar in Halifax with the McLeese Award for his significant contribution to promoting debating in Manitoba. Over the last 23 years Mr. McCaffrey has been the head coach of the St. Maurice Debating Society. In that time St. Maurice has established a reputation as one of the top teams in the province, finishing in the top three, four of the last seven years.



There have been many highlights during Mr. McCaffrey's tenure as head debating coach. In 1996, only the fourth year of their existence, the St. Maurice debating team won the provincial championships. Since then they have consistently medaled at many of the most important debating tournaments in the province including the annual Douglas Campbell Public Speaking Tournament. In 2014, a member of the St. Maurice Debating Society attended the World Public Speaking Championships in Europe. Congratulations Mr. McCaffrey for all your success!

## Christmas Hamper Food Drive



Thank you to the students and staff of St. Maurice School for the overwhelming contribution of food and toy items for the St. Vital Church Christmas hampers. Due to your generosity, we managed to construct 25 well stocked hampers that included toy items for children as well. Thank you to all families of the Junior High social justice group who donated items for the Christmas Concert raffle baskets. Your generosity was overwhelming. All proceeds will be donated to the Dream Factory, a local organization that provides once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to children in life threatening situations.

Merry Christmas and God Bless.

Carrie Shillingford and Anita Andrew

**Please help us to advertise our**

## **Public Open Houses**

**for prospective students**

**Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 pm in the Gym for Grades 7-12**

**Thursday, February 16th at 6:30 pm in the Gym for K-Grade 6**

**Redesigned  
St. Maurice Website  
Coming in January**

**Visit :**

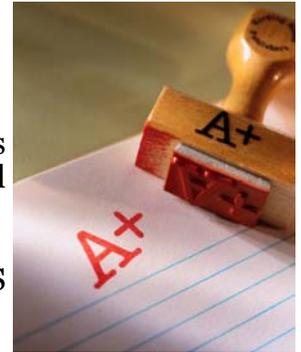
**[www.stmaurice.mb.ca](http://www.stmaurice.mb.ca)**



## Exam Study Skills Tips

Make use of these study and exam writing suggestions to decrease your stress and increase your success! Not all of these hints may work for every individual student, but all of these suggestions are worth a try!

THE EXAM SCHEDULE IS POSTED THOROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL, AND IS AVAILABLE AT [www.stmaurice.mb.ca](http://www.stmaurice.mb.ca) UNDER THE NEWS/EVENTS TAB



### ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ Select one location for study at home and one at school. A room with a cooler temperature will help keep you awake.
- ◆ Do not attempt to study the more difficult material on the bus or in the car; do not waste this time, but use it only for reviewing content you have already memorized.
- ◆ Study where you will not be interrupted by others. Do not study with other people unless they are all serious about the studying. Do not take phone calls or spend time online.
- ◆ Study in a quiet area. Also avoid concentrating on household sounds you cannot avoid (wastes time and destroys your concentration). Studying with music playing may not be the best plan for most people - consider that you will not be able to have the same condition (of music playing) while you write your exam.
- ◆ Try to study only during daylight hours (afternoon, early evening).
- ◆ Sit up in a straight back chair; this will keep your muscles tense and your mind alert.
- ◆ Have your notebook, textbook, calculator, etc. on your desk as you start a study session.
- ◆ Remove all unnecessary objects from your area of study (no fiddling).
- ◆ Be sure that your work area is well lit to prevent eyestrain. If applicable, wear your eyeglasses while you study and as you write the exam.

### CONCENTRATION

- ◆ Relax for a short time after school before you start studying.
- ◆ Begin your study periods at the same time each evening (set up a routine). Start on time.
- ◆ Plan in advance: what you intend to study, how you intend to study it and how long it should take.
- ◆ Plan to take a break of 5 to 10 minutes (only) after each full hour of concentrated study. Stretch, rest your eyes, move around during breaks, but do not make long phone calls or get interested in a television program (which may last longer than your break).
- ◆ Try as hard as you can to become interested in the material as you study it. Not liking the subject does not mean that you do not need to do your best.
- ◆ Concentrate on only one subject at a time. Do not spend time and energy worrying about other remaining assignments or exams. However, be sure to organize your studying according to your exam schedule and the difficulty each subject presents to you.
- ◆ Concentrate as you study and you probably will not have to spend as much time studying.



# Volume 16, Issue 5

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## Exam Study Skills Tips (continued)

### HELP FROM YOUR TEACHERS

- ◆ Listen carefully to the exam outline and tips your teacher will share in the last classes before exams. Let's face it - your teachers just finished creating your exam paper; it's only human that the most likely topics they will review in class will be those that they just typed onto your exam!
- ◆ Take note of the permitted and/or needed equipment for each specific exam. Be sure to organize these materials well in advance and to bring them to your exam.
- ◆ Sign up early for extra help on the posted sign up sheet for each teacher. Study in advance of your appointment and prepare specific questions about the topics for which you need a final review with the teacher. Do not expect the teacher to even try to re-teach the entire course for you in a half-hour extra help session!

### GENERAL STUDY TECHNIQUES BEFORE A TEST OR EXAM

- ◆ START EARLY - STUDY REGULARLY
- ◆ Read one page of notes (or text) carefully and then study it. Place small scrap paper bookmarks or Post-It notes at each page or section where main ideas are presented, or at each page where there is a topic you do not yet know well enough. Do not move to the next page until you are confident that you know most of the material.
- ◆ Continue to study page by page until you reach the end of the notes for the exam. Do not forget to study worksheets, assignments, lab reports, projects, quizzes, tests, etc.
- ◆ Once you have studied your entire set of notes, go back to your first bookmark and re-study that topic. Remove the bookmark and proceed to your next bookmark only if you now know that topic. Leave a bookmark in place if you still are not sure.
- ◆ Continue to study and remove bookmarks as you learn more. (Challenge yourself - Try to eliminate all bookmarks before the exam).
- ◆ When "finished", start over.
- ◆ Do not leave the "hardest" topics for last.
- ◆ Make condensed study notes for the most important topics (useful for "cramming").
- ◆ Write out a list of key terms and practice spelling out key words on paper.

### MEMORIZING FACTUAL INFORMATION

- ◆ Spread out the time you spend memorizing. Your mind cannot absorb a great number of facts at once so take more short breaks - a 5 minute break for about every 20 minutes of memorizing.
- ◆ Recite aloud or write out a memorized concept to "cement" it into your memory.
- ◆ Test yourself by attempting to write out the memorized content (especially lists, definitions, etc).
- ◆ Be selective about what you choose to memorize fully. Use the exam outline as a guide.
- ◆ Try to understand material before memorizing it.
- ◆ When memorizing long passages and poetry, try to learn blocks of material rather than individual lines.
- ◆ Memorize using key words, memory tricks (mnemonic devices), word associations, grouping ideas, etc.
- ◆ Review often. Have a classmate or parent quiz you.





## Exam Study Skills Tips (continued)

### PLANNING FOR ESSAY QUESTIONS

- ◆ Listen for clues from the teacher during review classes.
- ◆ Design your own valid essay questions and fully prepare written-out answers for them.
- ◆ Discuss ideas with classmates and try to recall important class discussions. Also try to elaborate on class notes taken during those discussions.
- ◆ Reread sections of important texts and novel passages.

### TAKING AN EXAM

- ◆ Follow your regular routine and get a regular night's sleep before an exam. Start your studying early to allow for this.
- ◆ Quickly skim the whole exam before starting; this gets your brain working subconsciously on questions which you will address later on during the exam.
- ◆ Once the exam time starts, make quick notes on scrap paper (key terms, equations, etc). Do not spend / waste much time doing this.
- ◆ Budget the time given for the exam. Plan to leave adequate time for longer answers and for rereading. Check the clock occasionally and don't panic if you think you are running out of time.
- ◆ If you get nervous during the exam, take a short break and relax. Say a prayer. Close your eyes for a minute (but don't lose your focus).
- ◆ Read and follow directions carefully. Look for key words such as explain, contrast, list, prove, evaluate, etc.
- ◆ Look through the exam itself to check the spelling of subject-based terms if you are unsure.
- ◆ Skip questions that you cannot answer immediately and move on. Circle the numbers of skipped questions and do not forget to attempt these questions later.
- ◆ When writing essay answers, start with a brief outline on scrap paper. Pay special attention to neatness, organization and structure. Be sure to stay on topic and to provide a short but effective introduction and conclusion to each answer. Leave space after each essay answer, in case you later remember another point you would like to add.
- ◆ If given a choice of essay topics, choose quickly and begin with the topic you know the most about.
- ◆ Attempt all questions. Finish longer answers in point form if you are running out of time. Provide your best guess at any multiple choice or matching questions you left until last (unless there is a penalty for wrong answers).
- ◆ Reread and proofread the entire exam; check spellings, the communication of your ideas, the adherence to directions, etc.

### BEST WISHES FOR YOUR EXAM PREPARATION AND STUDY!

*Lord, it seems as though our lives are one test after another, weighing us in somebody's balance. Save us from taking the coming exams too seriously or too lightly, but grant that we may reflect the best of the work we've done and the teaching we've received; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**ST. MAURICE SCHOOL - GRADES 8 TO 12  
EXAMINATION SCHEDULE - JANUARY 2017 -**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EXAMINATIONS</b>
Thursday, January 26	9:00 AM	English Language Arts 20F ELA: Comprehensive Focus 40S English Literature and Composition 42S - AP
	12:30 PM	Science 10F ELA: Comprehensive Focus 30S ELA: Literary Focus 30S
Friday, January 27	9:00 AM	ELA 10F History: Canadian 30S
	12:30 PM	Science 20F Essential Mathematics 40S Pre-Calculus Mathematics 40S
Monday, January 30	9:00 AM	Science 8 Chemistry 40S Economics 40S
	12:30 PM	Mathematics 10F Chemistry 30S Law 40S
Tuesday, January 31	9:00 AM	English Language Arts 8 Pre-Calculus Mathematics 30S
	12:30 PM	Geographic Issues of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century 20F (Geography 20F) Essential Mathematics 30S ELA: Literary Focus 40S
Wednesday, February 1	9:00 AM	Mathematics 8 Introduction to Applied and Pre-Calculus Mathematics 20S
	12:30 PM	Canada in the Contemporary World 10F (Social Studies 10F) Physics 30S Biology 40S
Thursday, February 2	9:00 AM	Social Studies 8 Physics 40S
	12:30 PM	Biology 30S Essential Mathematics 20S