

St. Maurice School



ST. MAURICE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 2

October 2016

Message from Fr. Colin

Here's a trick question. If I was just ordained a priest a few months ago why have some people been calling me "Father" for more than thirty years?

Well, it's because I am married and have three children. They are all adults now but they have been calling me Father, or Dad, for an awfully long time. In addition to my three children I have three grandchildren, two grandsons aged 9 and 11 and a brand new granddaughter who is just barely 2 months old.

You see, I was an ordained minister in the United Church for most of my adult life. But a few years ago I fell in love with the Catholic Church and formally became a member at the Easter Vigil in 2011. Perhaps the story of my conversion could be shared at another time but after becoming a Roman Catholic I felt called to continue to serve God in ordained ministry. With permission from the Holy See, I began a period of formal preparation for ordination as a priest. Since the early 1950s, former Anglican, Lutheran and other clergy who join the Catholic Church have been granted exceptions to the norm of celibacy, in a practice mentioned in Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Sacerdotalis caelibatus* of 1967. Popes going back at least to Pope Pius XII routinely have granted dispensations from the norm of clerical celibacy for ordination of former Anglican and former Protestant clergy. Although celibate priesthood is still the norm in the Roman Catholic Church, this provision has made it possible for someone like me to be a "Father" in the priestly sense. With permission from the Holy See and with the support of my family and many Roman Catholic brothers and sisters I was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 2016. A few weeks later I had the privilege of beginning work here with Father Barry, Nicole Savard, our excellent parish staff, and all the faithful members of this incredible parish. I look forward to getting to know the staff and students of St. Maurice School.

I love serving God as a priest and feel blessed to be able to help people experience the love and mercy of God in so many different ways. I especially love the beauty of the sacraments and the way in which they can bring transformation, healing and comfort to God's beloved people.

While serving our Lord is my greatest passion, I love being married to my wonderful and very supportive wife Sandy with whom I have shared so many adventures. I rejoice in the gift of my children and grandchildren. I also enjoy travelling, cooking, kayaking and photography. I am a diehard Jets, Bombers and Blue Jays fan.

May the Lord bless you!

Father Colin Peterson

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Admin Message

We've enjoyed an excellent start to the school year. Students look forward to learning and growing. They are reminded that "*their best is the least they can do!*" Grade seven through twelve students' progress will be assessed by late October. Should a concern be identified, your child's Home Room Teacher will call you and discuss an action plan. On November 14th all grades 7 to 12 students will receive a Progress Report to be signed and returned by November 15th.

Please check your son's/daughter's student agenda to ensure that they are keeping on top of their school work. An effective educational resource is the Grade 7&8 Study Hall. It is supervised and students are tutored by Educational Assistants and peer tutors. Students in Study Hall often develop a strong work ethic, a significant indicator of future academic success!

We look forward to another year of excellent leadership from our recently elected High School Student Council: Tyrese G.'17-President, Navi M.'17-Vice-President, Shirley X.'17-Secretary, Llana A.'17-Public Relations Officer and Fidelia D.'17-Religious Events Coordinator .

We have entered a number of volleyball teams in league play. Huge thanks goes to our coaches. Our Cross Country runners have been successful at various meets. Mr. McCaffrey, Mr.Cotter and Mrs. Jorgensen have been preparing our debaters for the upcoming debating season.

Your children's safety is of great importance. We provide supervision from 8:30am to 3:45pm. Please do not leave your child at school outside of these school hours. The Before and After School Program for K-6 students accommodates the needs of those parents who require child care. This program operates from 7:00am to 8:30am and from 3:15pm to 6:00pm. Please contact the Before and After School Program directly at 204-284-0881.

When picking up your Grade 1 to 6 child at the 3:15pm dismissal, know that our Grades 7-12 classes continue until 3:30pm. The noise can be disruptive to all teachers and students in classrooms located in the main hallway. To assist with this concern, please wait until the 3:15pm dismissal outside school or near the gym entrance and meet your child at the exit door. This will avoid hallway congestion.

Students have been encouraged to use their God given talents by "paying them forward" to the vibrant learning community of St. Maurice. They are reminded that they are "gifted individuals willing to contribute to a caring community of learners."

I look forward to working with you.

God Bless,

Patrick Bennett

Patrick Bennett, Vice Principal (For K-8)



Patriot Pride Corner

In the September 2016 edition of this newsletter, the Patriot Pride Corner reported on the Alumni of St. Maurice School who have gone on to serve in ministry to Catholic youth as members of the National Evangelization Team (NET).

One “Netter” was unintentionally missed from that listing – we also wish to recognize **Natalia Aguilar**, SMS Grad of 2013, who served TWO years with NET – the first in Canada and the second in Ireland.

Our apologies for the oversight Natalia. Thank you for your work with NET!



Phys Ed News



September has gone quickly in the gym! All volleyball teams are officially into their seasons. Please remind your child to check the gym calendar for games and practices. Come on out and cheer on our teams! We have 8 teams competing in the leagues this year.

The Cross Country Running teams competed at the Athletics Manitoba Provincial Milk Run this past week. All of our teams were very successful, with two athletes achieving outstanding results. Congratulations to Brendan E.'26 and Ryan S.'24 for their 2nd and 4th place finishes overall in their age categories. We still have the Annual Crescent Drive Meet happening on October 6th to finish off the Cross Country Season.



The 1st annual St. Maurice Golf Tournament



Thursday, September 22nd saw the 1st Annual St Maurice Open Golf Classic (formerly the Teacher – Student Classic). A dozen staff, students, parents and alumni participated in this event on a lovely, sunny, somewhat windy afternoon. As in past years the teachers/staff prevailed, this year tied with the Alumni at 43 strokes on average. Our student Golfers looked good, raising hopes of a school Golf Team next year in 2017.

We retired to the Pony Corral after for food and drink where a few non golfers joined us. A good time was had by all.

Blood Donor Clinic

As in past years, all students age 17+ will be invited to donate blood at a Canadian Blood Services Blood Donor Clinic. This years' dates have been set for Friday, October 7th and Friday, December 16th with an 11:00am pick up from school by the CBS shuttle. As only 4% of the population gives blood and as that population is aging, new donors are always needed. I hope that these donors will commit to a life time of service - blood and blood products are desperately needed. Please feel free to join us at these times or consider donating blood yourself (for more information go to blood.ca)



Sincerely,
Jim Falloon

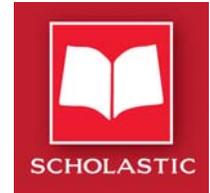
Library News

Welcome back to all students! September has been a busy month for the library. I have processed many new books which are now on the shelves. The students have all had a chance to visit the library and take out books. Please help your child become a better reader by encouraging at least 30 minutes a day of reading!

Scholastic Fall Book Fair

The fall Scholastic book fair will be held on the following dates:

- ◆ Friday October 7, 2016 from 12:00 pm until 4:00 pm
- ◆ Tuesday October 11, 2016 from 9 am until 6:00 pm
- ◆ Wednesday October 12, 2016 from 9 am until 6:15 pm
- ◆ Thursday October 13, 2016 from 9 am until 5:00 pm
- ◆ Friday October 14, 2016 from 9 am until 4:00 pm



If you are interested and have time to volunteer for the book fair, your help would be much appreciated! Please either email me at ana.jorgensen@stmaurice.mb.ca or stop by the library and let me know.

Indigo Kenaston Common Event

 In an effort to increase the diversity of books in our library, we are pairing together with Indigo on Kenaston and hosting two St. Maurice evenings on November 2nd and 3rd from 5:00 pm until 8:30 pm. All purchases made throughout the store (including gift, stationery etc.) between these times will be totaled and St. Maurice School will be able to get back 40% in books of our choice. These books will go toward the library as well as the K – 8 classroom libraries. I will be available to help choose books if needed or can direct you to titles that may be of interest to your children. This is a great opportunity to stock up on books/gifts for the Christmas season! Thank you for your support in making this inaugural event a success! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please email me at ana.jorgensen@stmaurice.mb.ca or stop by the library. I will have posters put up around the school with more information as the date approaches.

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” – Margaret Fuller

Mrs. Jorgensen

St. Maurice Prayer Group



To all Parents at St. Maurice,

Would you like to make St. Maurice the best school it can be? Join other parents for a muffin, coffee, visiting and prayer time, twice a month in the parish conference room from 9:00-10:30 am. We will meet Mondays starting Oct. 3rd, and plan to meet Oct. 17th, Nov. 7th & 21st and Dec. 5th.

Please enter the brown doors from the parking lot, walk straight into the church gathering space and turn into the first door on the right, the parish conference room.

Come and join us.

For more information call or email Lauri Eagles or Jolene Allen.

Lauri Eagles 204-253-8115, laurimilleker@hotmail.com
Jolene Allen 204-451-3586, xallen@mymts.net



Fire Drills, Lockdown Drill, Hold and Secure Drill



Fire Drills

St. Maurice Students will participate in a number of fire drills this fall and next spring. The success of a fire drill is not only judged by the time needed to evacuate the building and record the class attendance reports, but especially by the orderliness and efficiency of the evacuation. A silent, orderly and efficient evacuation will avoid panic and will help to ensure the safety of all in the event of a real emergency evacuation. Parents are asked to reinforce these attitudes when they discuss all of the various school safety drills with their children.

Lockdown Drills

A school lockdown is a procedure activated if a dangerous intruder were ever to enter into the school. A lockdown procedure requires practice by students and staff. In exactly the same way as we must train to respond to the fire alarm bells, we must develop in our school a quick and efficient response to the call for a lockdown. In advance of a scheduled lockdown drill, your child's teachers will be describing the reasons we practice a lockdown as a drill and will explain the procedures and behaviours expected of students when a lockdown is activated. We ask that parents also discuss with their child(ren) the importance of practicing a lockdown at school. The announcement made for a lockdown drill is introduced on the PA system with "This is a lockdown drill", such that the children may be permitted to properly practice their role in a lockdown without undue trauma and distress. Though it will be announced that it is a drill, it is fully expected that staff and students engage in the lockdown just as though it were real - which is the same attitude we try to teach when it comes to fire drills (ie. evacuate every time as though it's a real fire emergency!)



Some of the standard measures which will occur when a school lockdown is activated include:

- ◆ teachers will close and key-lock their classroom door after having brought any nearby students from the halls into the room
- ◆ the lights are turned off, windows are closed and locked, and the blinds are shut
- ◆ we must try to make the room appear uninhabited - everyone must remain quiet and still
- ◆ all student cell phones are turned off; students are not to make any calls or send any texts
- ◆ staff cell phones are set to silent mode
- ◆ class change and dismissal bells are ignored.
- ◆ all students will get down adjacent to a wall and on the floor in the safe zone area of the room. Teachers will have previously discussed this safe zone space with their students. The safe zone is located away from the line of sight from interior doors and windows.
- ◆ evacuation from the room to the outdoors if it is judged to be safe to do so.

Lockdown Drills cont'd

Parents are asked to assist in the school lockdown procedure in the following ways:

- ◆ If you should arrive at the school entrances and find a sign posted on the door which indicates “Lockdown Drill in Progress”, please do not enter the school until the drill is over and the signs have been removed.
- ◆ Do not call the school phones or your children’s cell phone. In the case of an actual school lockdown, we must keep all phone lines clear for use by emergency responders. Do not phone your children on their cell as this could inadvertently reveal the locations of students in the school to the intruder(s).
- ◆ If you should become aware that the school has activated its lockdown procedure, please do not enter the school parking lot, as this area will be needed as a coordination area for emergency services personnel.

Hold and Secure Drill

Another type of student safety drill, a “Hold and Secure”, will also be carried out at St. Maurice School.

A Hold and Secure would be initiated upon the advice of the Winnipeg Police Service to address such events as a robbery or criminal offence in close proximity to the school, a suspect being pursued by police near to the school, etc., but where there is no imminent threat within the school buildings.

During a Hold and Secure, the exterior doors are all shut and locked, all recesses are held indoors, and school staff members are posted at the blue entrance doors to allow known persons entry and to prevent students from leaving unless being picked up directly by their parent at the door. Unless they are known to the staff member in place at the blue entry doors, all persons arriving at the school during a Hold and Secure will be asked to show photo ID and to state the reason they have for entering the building.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Let us all pray that none of these measures will ever actually be needed; and let's work together to prepare our students and ourselves to be as ready as we can be for emergency situations.



Campus Ministry News

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER IN THE CHURCH

Throughout the month of September, 16 classes gathered in the church for a special back to school prayer. We prayed for our teachers, the school staff, our families and our classmates.....and for the K-6 classes, we even asked for a blessing on our backpacks, much to the surprise of the students (recognizing that they are an important part of our school year – they carry the books we need, as well as our lunches, to help our days at school go well)!

A number of the school staff also gathered one morning, before classes began, to pray for the school year ahead. We prayed for our students, the families of our students, the SMS community, and for God's grace and guidance.



CAMPUS MINISTRY TEACHER'S SESSION

On Friday, September 23rd, the teachers, administration, Fr. Barry and Nicole spent 90 minutes exploring Campus Ministry: what is it, why the need for it, and how it is already happening in our school. We also spent time outlining goals, and learning about some new resources the school will be using this year (the largest being the school supplement program for Bishop Robert Barron's *Catholicism Series*, designed for the grades 6-12). It was a fantastic, productive time – thanks be to the Holy Spirit for His great guidance that day!



GRADE 7 RETREAT DAY

On Monday, September 26th, the grade 7 classes gathered for a retreat day in the church. The theme was Community (very fitting for the start of the new year) and the day included prayer, praise and worship music, a scripture study (1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ~ The Body of Christ), get-to-know-you activities, small and large group discussions and more! The students participated with great enthusiasm – lots of wonderful discussions and reflections were shared and they really embraced what it means to be part of a community, particularly the grade 7 community of SMS. *“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” -1 Cor 12:12*



SCHOOL & CLASS MASSES

Each month we gather in the church for Mass (usually divided into grades K-6 and 7-12 as we can't all fit in the church at one time), and on Thursday's throughout the school year each grade in rotation attends Mass at 9am. Families, friends, parishioners – all are welcome to join us any time we gather for Mass! Please check the school calendar each month for the exact dates and times.



Continued on the next page...

Campus Ministry News cont'd

COMMUNICATION

A Campus Ministry Weebly (a type of blog) is currently being developed and as soon as it is completed, it will be linked to the school and parish websites. A notice will also be put in the school newsletter. The Weebly will be a great resource for families, students and staff alike – it will feature information about upcoming events, past events, pictures, links, prayers, music, different Catholic resources and more. It will be updated on a regular basis and we hope will be used and enjoyed by many!

As parents it isn't always easy to know everything that our children have done/experienced during the day. This can leave us feeling somewhat out of the loop, particularly when it comes to extra and/or special activities that are outside of the regular routine. Some examples include: the back to school prayers, the grades 9 & 10 Health classes gathering in the church to learn more about spiritual health (which was done in mid-September), class scripture studies in the church, etc..... One of the top priorities of our Campus Ministry is to communicate these extras with the families so that you know what's happening and can ask your children about their experiences. Be sure to read the school newsletter, the parish bulletin, look at the Weebly, etc....



UPCOMING

October 4th is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and one custom to celebrate his Feast Day is for parishes to host a Blessing of the Pets. St. Francis loved all of God's creations, including animals – of which he is the Patron Saint. If you'd like to have your pet blessed (furry, slithery, winged, and more – all are welcome!), please join us in the parking lot on Saturday, October 1st at 10AM (lasts about 15 minutes) for our annual Blessing of the Pets.

October is one of the months of Mary in the Catholic Church (May is the other), and Friday, October 7th is the Feast of the Holy Rosary. In honor of both, several classes have already arranged activities for their students: some of the kindergarten students will be learning about Mary, some of the grades 2 & 3 students will be learning about the rosary, and some of the middle years will be praying a living rosary.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Preparation for all Roman Catholic teens in grades 8-12 wishing to be Confirmed in the Spring of 2017 is soon beginning. We encourage you to connect with your home parish for more information and to celebrate the Sacrament (preparation for this Sacrament is not offered through the school). Registration forms for the prep sessions at St. Vital Parish are now available at the bulletin board in the church gathering space near the parking lot doors. Prep sessions will take place Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30PM beginning November 3rd.



July 2018

10-day Service Learning Trip

NICARAGUA:

From coffee fields to classrooms—dive into life in the land of lakes and volcanoes

ME to WE trips support the work of *Free The Children*, giving travelers a unique opportunity to engage in activities that directly contribute to *Free the Children's* holistic and sustainable development model. This will be a St. Vital Parish & St. Maurice School trip.

A typical day on this Service Learning Trip would include:

- ◆ Immersion into the local culture, daily life
- ◆ Volunteer projects
- ◆ Team-building exercises
- ◆ Action planning – getting ready to make a difference at home
- ◆ Meals
- ◆ Accommodations
- ◆ Free-time



This very special opportunity is open to teens currently in grades 8-11

Preparations will include:

- ◆ Local service opportunities/projects
- ◆ Faith formation
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Monthly preparation sessions

Anticipated cost is \$3500-\$4000; payment plan available



Group leaders will be Jim Falloon (St. Maurice teacher) and Nicole Savard (Director of Campus Ministry and parish Pastoral Assistant)

If you are interested, please contact Mr. Falloon at 204-453-4020 or jfalloon@stmaurice.mb.ca ASAP!

It's Pumpkin Time!

The Allen Family pumpkin patch is producing beautiful pumpkins this year, and we're bringing them to school in October. We are raising money for Rehab Centre for Children in memory of our daughters Ashley and Hope who had a life-limiting illness and were severely handicapped. RCC was a centre of hope and inspiration in a difficult time.

They provided much needed resources and equipment for our girls and many other children. When we found out that RCC is funded by donations, we decided to help out.

The pumpkin's sales and any donations will go to Children's Rehabilitation Foundation which is the fundraising arm of RCC.

Pumpkins are \$5

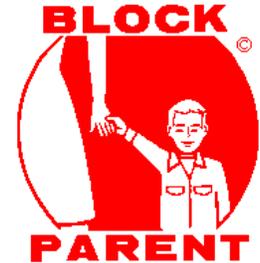
Stay tuned for future notices of when the pumpkins will arrive...



The ABCs of back-to-school safety

As families begin another school year, please remember to review safety rules with your children for walking, biking, skateboarding and bussing to school:

- Encourage them to travel with friends whenever possible;
- Develop an 'action plan' in the event of a scary situation;
- Point out Block Parent homes and other safe places along their route;
- Keep a list of your child's friends, addresses and phone numbers.



Parents and grandparents may recall the familiar Block Parent window sign, which depicts an adult lending a helping hand to a child. Since 1975, the Block Parent goal has been to ensure 'safe homes with safe strangers'. To that end, every adult in a Block Parent home is background-checked by the police every two years, at no cost to the volunteers.

Today's Block Parent program has the participation of over 3,000 families in over 180 elementary schools throughout the city of Winnipeg. We are singles, parents, grandparents, empty-nesters, home daycare operators, retirees – any homeowner interested in the safety of their community. Our volunteers dedicate their time as the eyes and ears of our neighbourhoods.

If you are interested in becoming a Block Parent, or in having a presentation at your school, please call 204-284-7562. Further Block Parent and general safety information is available by visiting our website: www.winnipegblockparents.mb.ca