

St. Maurice School



ST. MAURICE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 3

November 2016

Admin Message

November is the month to remember. On November 1st we celebrate All Saints Day where we remember all the saints in Heaven; November 2nd is All Souls Day when we commemorate all the faithfully departed. As we remember all those close to us who have come and gone, it is a great opportunity for our families to reconnect with their roots and their history. Our children love to hear stories and there are so many to share about distant and not so distant relatives and the challenges and the triumphs that brought you and your family to where you are today.

Our family and relatives are not the only ones we remember in November. We must also remember all the brave young men and women fought to protect our freedom. It is because of their sacrifices that we have the privilege to enjoy the freedoms we have today. The school will hold a Remembrance Day assembly for all grade 6-12 students on Thursday November 10th at 2:30pm in St. Vital Parish. Parents are welcome to attend. Lest We Forget.

In school life, November promises to be very busy. Reports card will go out for grade 7-12 students on Monday November 14th to be followed by parent teacher interviews on Thursday November 17th from 4-9pm and Monday November 21st from 1-6pm. Report cards for K-6 students go out on Friday November 25th followed by parent-teacher interviews on Thursday December 1st 4-8 pm and Tuesday December 6th from 4-8pm.

God bless,

Nick Sagriotis
Vice-Principal Grades 9-12
St. Maurice School
of St. Vital Parish



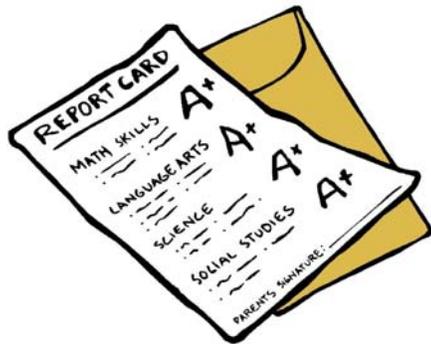
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K-8 News



The K-8 students look forward to a very busy November. Please check the attached calendar for the dates of the many activities and events. Grade level masses, hot lunches, the Remembrance Day Service and exciting volleyball games will be but a few events in November.



The Progress reports and Parent Teacher Interviews coming up this month will be a wonderful opportunity to assess your child's progress. Your child's classroom teacher, the school counselor, resource teacher and administration are here to help your child. We welcome the opportunity to do "whatever it takes" to help your son/daughter succeed.

Thank you parents for being mindful of the noise level in the hallway in the Elementary and Junior High hallways at school dismissal time. We appreciate your cooperation. Please pick up your children from the waiting area in the parking lot. Meeting them at their locker after school further congests our crowded hallways and does not teach them independence.

We don't allow children to walk through the parking lot to go to vehicles. Please park your vehicle and walk over to pick up your child from the designated waiting area in front of the white school doors. Should you not be able to leave your vehicle one of the EA's will escort your child to your car.



Please make the parking lot experience pleasant for everyone by adhering to the signage on the lot. Do not stop in aisles to drop off or pick up your child. This causes significant delays in the traffic flow that result in frustrated drivers which can then lead to poor driving decisions.

We look forward to working with your children.

God Bless,
Patrick Bennett
Vice Principal (For K-8)



News from the Parish



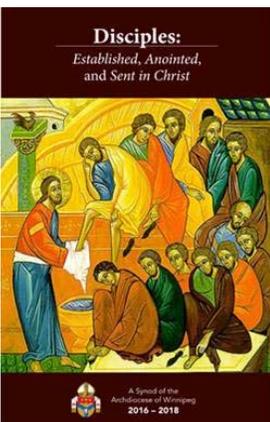
Development & Peace

On October 14th a number of our grades 7-12 students involved in the social justice clubs attended a one-day workshop at the Archdiocese of St. Boniface Pastoral Centre, along with a number of students from other Catholic Schools. The students had an opportunity to learn more about Development & Peace, as well as some ideas and activities to share with the school. It was a really interesting day, and the participants returned with lots of new ideas!

The Synod of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg

In May 2016, our Archdiocese began a Synod process. We are currently in the listening sessions phase; that is, individuals (parishioners, clergy, religious communities, etc...) are invited to attend special sessions – known as listening sessions – with His Grace Archbishop Gagnon. Participants are asked to respond to three questions in writing, and then have an opportunity to present their responses out loud to the Bishop if they'd like. All of the information gathered at these listening sessions will be used to help provide pastoral vision for the archdiocese.

In mid-October, the grade 9-12 students gathered for an assembly to learn more about the Synod. Then, the students had an opportunity to respond to the three questions in their religion classes, and to have some discussions about them (their responses are all being submitted to the Synod organizers). On October 25th, 40 of our grade 9-12 students attended a listening session with the Bishop, along with students from St. Mary's Academy and St. Paul's High School. It was a very interesting afternoon!



NET Retreats

On Tuesday, November 1st the grade 9s and Wednesday, November 2nd the grades 10s & 11s will be participating in day-long retreats at the school, hosted by NET (National Evangelization Team) Canada. Please pray for the students as well as the NET members!



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Each year we organize two opportunities for the grades 3-12 classes to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. November 22nd the grades 8-12 will have the opportunity to, and the grades 3-7 will on November 29th. Students will prepare ahead of time with their classes, but it is also good if parents/guardians can help their child(ren) prepare. We will do this again in March.

Sacramental preparation for students in grades 3-12

Beginning in January, I will be offering the following sacramental preparation:

- ◆ Full initiation into the Roman Catholic Church (Baptism, Confirmation & 1st Eucharist for students who have a Catholic parent)
- ◆ Sacraments of Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist for students in grades 3-12 who were baptized Catholic

Preparation sessions will take place during lunch hours (2x/week) beginning in January. For more information, or for a registration form, please contact me at 204-803-6556 or Nicole.savard@stmaurice.mb.ca.

God bless!
Nicole Savard,
Director of Campus Ministry

Grades 7-12 First Term Progress Reports



November 14

Grades 7 to 12 First Term Progress Reports distributed at 3:30.

November 15

Report Card Reply Sheets and Parent-Teacher Interview Request Forms due back.

November 17

Parent-Teacher Interviews 4:00-9:00 pm.

November 21

Parent-Teacher Interviews 1:00-6:00 pm (Grades 7-12 students dismissed at 11:20 am).

Parent-Teacher Interviews are scheduled on a first come - first served basis using the Parent-Teacher Interview Request Forms returned to the school.

Christmas in October

Christmas in October Campaign was a Success!

The students and staff of St. Maurice Junior High recently celebrated success with their Christmas in October campaign. Christmas in October is an annual campaign the St. Maurice Junior High students, staff, and families participate in to raise “gift” money for the four sponsorship children they support through the Chalice Program. The additional funds are sent to the sponsorship families and are in addition to their regular sponsorship fees.



This year students collected \$2.00 donations. The donors name was added to a Christmas ornament and displayed in the Junior High notice board.

The campaign was an overwhelming success raising close to \$1700 over the two weeks the campaign ran. Congratulations to all involved and thank you to all of those who have so positively impacted the lives of our sponsor children!



Retake Picture Day is Coming! Tuesday, November 08, 2016

Get a second chance to capture the perfect image.
Didn't love your picture? Simply return your Proof Portrait Sheet and Order Form to the photographer on retake day.

Gym Air Conditioned

October 20th saw the completion of a decades-long dream ... the installation of an air conditioning unit for the gymnasium of St. Maurice School! The gym was the last section of the main campus to have air conditioning installed because of the very high cost of the rooftop unit itself and the infrastructure redevelopment required for the cooling of such a large space. Although air conditioning for the gym was the initial dream begun about 20 years ago, so much time has passed it became prudent to replace the furnaces which heat the gym at the same time. The solution was the installation of an all-in-one HVAC unit – heating, ventilation and air conditioning. Not only will the new unit provide heating and cooling, it is designed with an air exchanger which will move the “gym-odour” air out and provide an intake of fresh outdoor air yearlong!



The engineering analysis and new drawings determined that a significant amount of steel was needing to be welded into place to reinforce the existing gym roof before the HVAC unit could be hoisted up and installed. This work and the spray painting to follow took place in late August.

The hoisting of the new unit onto the gym roof took place on October 20, 2016, with the final steps of the installation occurring over the next few days.

Tower Engineering Group was the firm which conducted the initial project assessment and prepared the engineers' drawings for the project.

Many thanks to the general contracting firm, Westland Construction Ltd., for their great work on the project, and to a number of sub-contractors: East Side Ventilation, Wareham & Crowe Electric Ltd., Affinity Welding, T&R Mobile Welding Ltd., and Timeless Painting.



Thanks to everyone at the school and parish who had a role to play during the approximately two years we have been planning and preparing for the realization of this project.



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Gym Air Conditioned cont'd

The financial costs for this capital project had to be borne entirely by means of fundraising and strategic savings over time since independent schools receive no funding for capital projects from the Province. Two major fund sources covered the total cost of this project:

- ◆ A fund the school had created a number of years ago to save for capital projects, built up from the proceeds of some of the larger scale fundraisers of the past, for example, the cash calendar raffles, Grey Cup raffle tickets and the Knights of Columbus Annual Dinner of 2012 which donated its proceeds to St. Maurice School for this fund.
- ◆ The St. Maurice Parent Guild's Gym Air Conditioning Fund which has been built up from the revenues of the small profit fundraisers of the early days of the Guild through to the significant revenue generated by the Manitoba Lotteries bingo fundraisers undertaken by the Guild.



The St. Maurice School community extends a huge thank you to the Parent Guild members and other volunteer parents who have generously donated of their time in working at the Bingo event fundraisers. The SMS Parent Guild is always interested to have more volunteers for the bingo night fund-raisers and for all of their many fun-raising events ... please visit <http://www.stmauriceparentguild.ca/> for more information about the Guild or contact stmauriceparent-guild@gmail.com

2016-17 Prime Minister's Awards



Do you know a terrific teacher or early childhood educator? Consider nominating them for a 2016-17 Prime Minister's Award! This prestigious program honours innovative and outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers and early childhood educators who are helping prepare Canadian youth for the challenges of tomorrow.

Looking for inspiration? Check out some of our previous [teaching](#) and [early childhood education](#) award recipients.

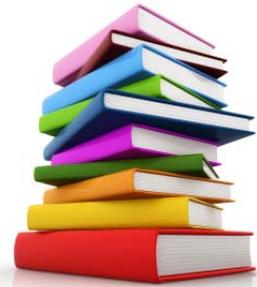
2016-17 nomination packages are now available at www.pma.gc.ca.

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Library News

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to all who supported the Scholastic Book Fair! With your support we will be able to help both classroom libraries and the main library!



World Book Online

St. Maurice students have access to World Book Online. This site provides a wealth of nonfiction information. Thousands of nonfiction books can be accessed electronically, there are tips and resources for writing essays and studying as well as many timelines to help students. In order to access this resource, please go to: www.worldbookonline.com
To login in at home, students use the login: smsjunohome. The password is: maurice
If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by the library!

Indigo Fundraiser

On November 2nd & 3rd, St Maurice School will be participating in a fundraising event with Indigo Book Store. The event will be held at Indigo book store located at 1590 Kenaston Blvd, from 5:00 to 8:30 pm. St Maurice School will receive the following discounts on books purchased:

- ◆ St. Maurice will **receive 20%** donation from Indigo from regular priced purchases guests make at the Fundraiser
- ◆ *PLUS:* When we spend our donation at the store, we will receive the Teacher Discount of 20% off our purchases! This mean we can stretch our funds even further!

Please help us to support the addition of new books to both classroom libraries and the main library.

I will be onsite to help people with questions.

Author Carol Matas (the school has many of her books) will be signing books on November 2nd. Carol Matas is an internationally acclaimed author of 45 books for children and young adults. Carol writes contemporary and historical fiction, as well as science fiction and fantasy. She first began writing historical fiction when her Danish husband told her stories about his parents' experiences fighting the Nazis in World War II. Most of her books incorporate Jewish themes and 11 of her novels deal specifically with the Holocaust. Because she was well known for her Holocaust books for young readers, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. asked her to write *Daniel's Story*, which became a best seller. Over the years, Carol's knack for successfully infusing serious and thought-provoking issues into an action-driven format has kept readers of all ages engaged. (<http://carol.carolmatas.com/about-carol-matas.htm>)

Thank you all for your continued support of our students and their reading!!!

Mrs. Lana Jorgensen
Teacher Librarian



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Report from Grade 6

On October 11 the Grade 6 classes of St. Maurice School welcomed Mrs. McKerlie Korol, the Director of the Teachers' Institute and Classroom in the Legislature. The students had a wonderful opportunity to learn about the democratic process and how laws are made in Manitoba through discussion and role playing. They learned about the three levels of government, the roles of MLAs, the law-making process in Manitoba and the connection to the British Monarchy. Students were asked to produce a St. Maurice School rule that they would like to see changed and follow it through the legislative stages. They enjoyed the discussions and reviewed the information with a game of Jeopardy. This provided insight to understand the process of making laws in Manitoba.



Did you know that the Legislative Chamber is in the shape of a horse shoe? The mace is the symbol of authority of the House. Also, the Sergeant-at-Arms is the officer of the Legislative Assembly responsible for security within the Assembly and for attending the House, safekeeping of the Mace, furniture and fittings of the Assembly and for the conduct of messengers, attendants and pages. Finally, the person who maintains order in the Chamber is the Speaker. The Speaker is elected by the other MLAs in a secret ballot election.

Thank you Mrs. McKerlie Korol for the fun, all of the great information and for the Golden Boy pins that you handed out!

The St. Maurice Grade 6 students, Mrs. Scharer and Mr. Domolewski

SMS 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.

The next dates are Mondays, Nov. 7th, Nov. 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



WHEN YOU'RE BEHIND THE WHEEL, SAFETY IS UP TO YOU

In Manitoba, as of October 2016, 85 people have lost their lives in fatal collisions this year alone. This number has nearly doubled overall from last year at this time and the age range with the most significant increase in victims of collisions, serious injuries and fatalities has consistently been 15-35.

Worst of all – we know these deaths could have been prevented. Contributing factors in this year's fatal collisions have included speeding, impaired and distracted driving and not using a seat belt.

As a driver, your actions and decisions matter. Avoid the most common causes of collisions with these safety tips:

DO...

- **Reduce distractions.** Distracted driving is anything that takes your eyes off the road – both in and outside of the vehicle. Never text and drive, and avoid excessive use of in-car devices (GPS, radio).
- **Slow down.** Speeding is one of the most significant contributors to crashes. Speed limits are to be driven under ideal weather conditions. Remember to adjust your speed during poor weather. It's also important to observe posted speed limits within construction zones.
- **Buckle up.** Always use your seatbelt. In Manitoba, according to police-reported data, you are nearly 26 times more likely to be killed and two times more likely to be seriously injured when not wearing a seatbelt.

DON'T...

- **Use your cell phone or any other electronic device.** It's dangerous and in Manitoba, it's against the law. Penalties include five demerits on the Driver Safety Rating scale and a \$200 fine. You can also hurt or kill yourself, other drivers or pedestrians and damage property while not paying attention.
- **Drink or use drugs.** Driving requires you to be alert, in complete control at all times and able to concentrate on the task at hand. Impairment from alcohol or drugs compromises your ability to do all of these things and puts you, and others, at risk.