

# St. Maurice School



ST. MAURICE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 4

December 2016

## Fr. Barry's Message

Greetings in the Lord...

It is not the end of November and already the stores are all about Christmas. Yesterday I heard my first Christmas carol on the radio. Before you know it we will have our houses decorated and then it is just a matter of waiting for the big day to arrive.

In the church however, there is a very different message being presented to us as believers. Instead of already celebrating the birth of our Lord, we are taking the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day to prepare our hearts and minds in the liturgical season we call Advent. In the season of advent we remember that Christmas is more than the birth of a little baby at point and time in history. It is also about God having already come into our lives and about His desire to be a part of every day of our lives.

There is nothing wrong with thinking of that wonderful image where the baby Jesus is lying in a humble manger as Mary and Joseph (and perhaps a few animals) watches over Him. If we take a closer look we might notice that this familiar scene is begging us to ask ourselves a few important questions? For instance why did God choose to become one of us? Why did He need to come as a helpless little baby? What does this have to do with me?

Perhaps we can take some time during this season of Advent to ponder how the birth of Jesus is much more than decorations, Christmas presents and big meals. It is even more about our God reaching out to us in love and desiring to bring mercy, healing, Grace into our everyday lives.

Happy Advent!

In Christ;

*Fr. Barry Schoonbaert*



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## Admin Message

Greetings from the Principal ...

Last week, I attended a lecture given at St. Paul's College by Dr. Richard D'Souza, a Jesuit priest and scientist currently working for the Vatican Observatory. The title of his talk was *God and the Galaxies, A Jesuit Perspective from the Vatican Observatory*. Those of you who know of my scientific interests would readily understand how much I appreciated the astronomical physics and cosmology topics presented. However, what resonated most strongly with me was the second portion of Fr. D'Souza's presentation, during which time he commented upon how Religion and Science are not at all in conflict; that these are both means of deepening our understanding and love for God. I took particular note of a phrase he used: "Studying the Universe (i.e. Science) is an act of worship." What a wonderful thought!



In closing the talk, Fr. D'Souza showed a slide which included the following statements, both of which were readily adopted into my existing philosophy:

*"Science is about the explanation; Religion is about the meaning."*

*"Science takes things apart to see how they work; Religion puts things together to see what they mean."*

It just so happens that these statements came to mean even more to me later on than they did during the lecture. A couple of days later, after the First Sunday of Advent Mass, I began to relate the statements to the Advent season, and to the coming of Christ at Christmas. For example, I thought: like the study of Science, it is no doubt important that we learn of the facts and the evidence of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. But more like Religion, we need to also remember to studiously ponder and wonder in Faith at the fullness of the *meaning* of the Incarnation. Carrying this reflection further, we can consider how we all come to learn about God in some ways with our minds (like Science), but also with our hearts (like Religion/Faith). I encourage you to read the statements again; see what they might say to you, and listen to what God may be telling you too!

I wish all of you a peaceful and prayerful season of Advent.

God Bless,

Handwritten signature of Mr. Bryan Doiron.

Mr. Bryan Doiron  
Principal

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## K-8 News

Education is like a giant canvas. Students should apply lots paint on their canvas. Students are encouraged to embrace their learning. Consequently, they will make the most of their beautiful canvas of opportunity and sketch their goals.



Their education is sound, creative and innovative. St. Maurice School, together with the parents and the students, will *help* make this a reality. Please review your child's report card and attend the K-6 Parent Teacher Conferences. Your support and influence is critical to your child's success- thank you.



Help! Four letters that can mean so much. They are four letters as a dynamic, planned action - or a plea! The teachers at our school take action and help the students to achieve academic, sporting, cultural and life-long learning. Teachers are motivated to help create a year that is bright and, like a necklace, adorned with pearls of opportunities.

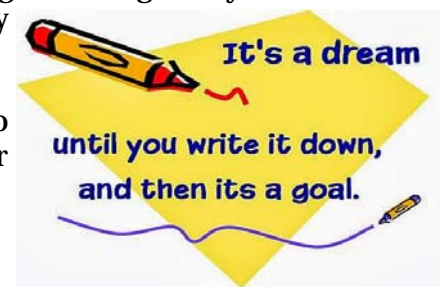
However, even more importantly, students will have to take action to further their education. Interestingly, the word education is derived from the Latin "educare" meaning to draw out. The teachers "draw out" your child's God given talents. Students however, cannot merely sit back and expect the greater school community to do everything for them. They are reminded to realize the importance of self-motivation, a work ethic and embracing learning opportunities.

Your children are encouraged to throw as much paint as possible on the canvas of their education. As compassionate Christians they answer the call to respond to the pleas of the less fortunate. As contributing members of society, they will need to help their family, friends and the environment. They will need to make sense of the world when sense and reason go missing. They will need to help solve problems through innovation and invention. Finally, they will need to help turn indifference into motivated, helpful action.

This is our goal as the year at St. Maurice School. Let's continue to work together as proud Patriots to help each other to be our best for the world!

God Bless,

Patrick Bennett  
Vice- Principal ( For K-8)



## Reminder to Please Dress Warmly

Parents of K-6 students, please ensure that your child comes prepared to be dressed for outdoors recess on all school days. Indoor recesses will only be held if it is -27 degrees Celsius (wind chill factor is considered) or colder.



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## News from the Campus Ministry

Happy New Year! This may seem odd to say as it is not yet January 1<sup>st</sup>, but it is the New Year in the Church! We are now in the season of Advent, this time of great anticipation for the arrival of the Messiah. The challenge we have as Christians during this special season is that we are bombarded with the busy-ness of preparing for Christmas in secular ways. Our invitation is to take time each day - even just a few minutes - to pray, talk with God, read from scriptures, etc....so that we are preparing for the long-awaited Messiah, Christ the Son of God coming into our world!

*"O come, divine Messiah! The world in silence waits the day, when hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away."*

### WE Day



On November 18<sup>th</sup>, a group of students from our grades 7 & 8 and grades 9 -12 social justice committees attended WE Day at the MTS Centre. The group returned to school inspired and enthusiastic to be the change in our world! It was a wonderful experience that connected so well with our call to discipleship and the Gospel message to love and serve others.

### New office

Construction on our new Campus Ministry office is now underway! It will be adjacent to the parish conference room, just as you enter through the brown doors off the parking lot. The office should be completed by Christmas break and Nicole moved in by January 9<sup>th</sup>. How fitting that it will be located right where the parish and the school meet!

### Service opportunities

Stay tuned to the school newsletter and/or information coming home with your child(ren) beginning in January for a variety of local service opportunities – some will be for students only, some for families. There will be opportunities available for all grade levels!

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Each year we organize two opportunities for the grades 3-12 classes to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. November 22<sup>nd</sup> the grades 8-12 will have the opportunity to, and the grades 3-7 will on November 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 & 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist for students who have a Catholic parent)

- Sacraments of Reconciliation & 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:Nicole.savard@stmaurice.mb.ca) .

Nicole Savard,  
Director of Campus Ministry

## Christmas Concerts



### 2016 Christmas Concerts at St. Vital Parish Church

#### **Performances:**

Kindergarten at 2:30 pm on Tuesday, December 20

Grades 1-3 at 1:00 and 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 21

Grades 4-6 at 2:30 and 7:30 pm on Wednesday, December 21

#### **Student arrival for the evening performances**

For the evening performances, Grades 1-3 students must report to their classrooms at 5:30 pm and Grades 4-6 students must report to their classrooms at 6:45 pm. Staff supervision of students will only be available beginning at those times. Please note: Supervision is not available for brothers or sisters of the performing students.

#### **Attire**

For both the afternoon and evening concerts:

- ◆ All students are asked to wear their “concert best” (no jeans or casual clothes please), and dresses should cover shoulders.
- ◆ On concert day for Grades 1-6 (Dec. 21), all students are expected to attend school in the dress clothes needed for the afternoon performance.
- ◆ Students are strongly encouraged to wear flat shoes for safety as they will be standing on choir risers for the performance.

#### **Silver Collection and Bake Sale/Raffle**

While the admission to all concerts is free, there will be a silver collection for the inner city schools breakfast program delivered by Rossbrook House.

There will also be a raffle and bake sale located by the nursery school doors, hosted by the Social Justice Committees, with proceeds donated to *The Dream Factory*.



# Integrity.Liberty.Humility.

## Excellence in Catholic Education for the Entire Family

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## Library News

### St. Maurice Indigo Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who supported our Indigo Fundraiser! With your help we will be able to bring over \$800 of new books into St. Maurice School!

### Winnipeg Public Library (<http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/>)



Winnipeg Public Library has 20 locations serving the citizens of Winnipeg. The Library offers a variety of services including a broad range of collections, programs for all ages, and information services. Your library card may be used at any branch in the system.

- ✦ Library cards are free if you live or pay property or business taxes in the City of Winnipeg.
  - ✦ To get a card, download a membership application form, fill it out and hand it in at any branch. Membership application forms are also available at any branch in the system.
  - ✦ You will be asked to show acceptable identification. If you live in Winnipeg, but you have no ID, you can still get a library card - it will be a limited card allowing you to borrow up to 2 items at a time instead of 50. All other benefits of a library card apply. You can update your limited card to a full card at any time by showing acceptable identification.
  - ✦ Parents or guardians of children and young adults 17 years and under must sign their children's library membership application.
- If you share custody of a child, please ask at your local branch about their Juvenile Joint Custody membership cards.

Online access to your library account allows you to:

- ✦ view library material currently checked out or overdue
- ✦ view due dates for library material
- ✦ view fines owing
- ✦ renew library material
- ✦ request library material that is checked out or at another branch
- ✦ view the status of your requests
- ✦ change your Personal Identification Number (PIN)

***The Winnipeg Library has a huge book selection. Many books are available in an electronic format. The library is a great place to study and access books that are not available at St. Maurice School!***

### ***Quote of the Month***

***The ability to read, write, and communicate connects people to one another and empowers them to achieve things they never thought possible. Communication and connection are the basis of who we are and how we live together and interact with the world. (<https://literacyworldwide.org/why-literacy>)***

**Lana Jorgensen**  
Teacher Librarian

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## **\*\*NEW\*\* St. Vital Parish Parent & Tot Group**

Come share in some fun, faith and fellowship with other parents and their children. Join us for prayer and faith enrichment, learn some new songs and rhymes, participate in a craft, and get to know other parents in the community and share in the joy and struggles of parenthood.

For: Parents & Grandparents with children ages 0 – 5

First Gathering: Tuesday, December 6th from 9:30am – 11:30am

Where: St. Vital Parish lower level hall

Please bring your own snack.

Registrations can be found on our Faith Formation Bulletin Board or on our Parish Website :

<http://stvitalparish.ca/>

Any questions please contact Candace @ 204-453-0933 or email [Candace@stvitalparish.ca](mailto:Candace@stvitalparish.ca)

## **Grades 7-9 Debate News**

Students in Grade Seven, Eight and Nine have been turning out in record numbers for St. Maurice's Junior Debating Club this year. We've attended three tournaments so far and at the last one, the Catholic School's tournament at St. Boniface Diocesan, St Maurice's own Vaibhav Varma was the top individual debater in the whole tournament.



On Wednesday, December 7th, St. Maurice will host a debating tournament for other Catholic schools for debaters in Grades 7-9. The highly contentious resolution will be "There is a Santa Claus." Debaters, judges and spectators may dress up as their favorite Christmas ornament, elf, reindeer or character from "A Christmas Carol". For debaters and judges the tournament gets underway with briefings at 5:30. For spectators things get underway around 6:15 and continue till roughly 8:30.

We hope to see you there.

Mr. Cotter

## **SMS Prayer Group**

Come join us to pray for our school community!

Meet for prayer time, and also to enjoy some fellowship with a muffin and coffee. The prayer group meets twice a month in the parish conference room from 9:00-10:30 am. Everyone is welcome.



*The next SMS Prayer Group meeting date is Monday 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.

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

Lauri Eagles 204-253-8115, [laurimilleker@hotmail.com](mailto:laurimilleker@hotmail.com)

Jolene Allen 204-451-3586, [xallen@mymts.net](mailto:xallen@mymts.net)

## Immaculate Conception Drop in Luncheon



A huge thank you goes out to the St. Maurice Community for the donation of time, talent and treasure towards the Immaculate Conception Drop in Centre Chili Lunch which was held on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

School Staff donated and prepared over 200 litres of chili, with a few staff members attending the luncheon at the Drop in Center and working in the kitchen to help prepare the meal.

The St. Vital Parish Social Justice Committee provided funds towards the purchase of: 35 loaves of bread, 2 large tubs of margarine, 3 crates of bananas, 10 four-litre jugs of 2% milk, 6 two-litre jugs of 2% milk, and 20 boxes of cookies .

Students, Parents and Staff donated over 2460 items that are much in need at the Centre: mitts, socks, tuques, scarves, shampoos, toothpastes, toothbrushes, soaps, and other toiletry items.



## Events in December

Parent-Teachers for K-6, 4-8 pm—December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>

Parent Guild Jingle Bell Shop in gym and HS Classrooms 6:00-8:00pm—December 9<sup>th</sup>

High School Dance 7-11 pm—December 16<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Concerts—December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

Last Day of classes—December 22<sup>nd</sup>

***Classes Resume on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.***



## Storm Closures

In the event we experience extreme weather conditions, we support and follow the decisions made by the School Superintendents for the City School Divisions. Therefore, if a decision is made by the Superintendents to close city schools due to poor weather conditions, St. Maurice School will also be closed.

Radio Stations will announce school cancellations. The decision to close city schools is mostly made based on whether Winnipeg Transit remains in operation during a storm.





**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