



St. Maurice Parochial School

Newsletter

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Admin Message

Greetings from the Principal ...

As I sit down to write this short message, I've just finished signing 167 Provincial Middle Years Assessment report cards*; my hand is a bit cramped, my arm is tired, and the last fifty signatures are unrecognizable as compared to the first fifty I produced.

Repetitive, mundane, and sometimes even boring tasks frequently come into our lives; however, the majority of these are necessary and even important in the grand scheme of things. So it may be with our Lenten observances. Giving up candy, excessive television-watching, or perhaps a bad habit are small, simple things. Performing an act of service for others – even just offering a smile to another – can also be just a small, simple thing. However, if such Lenten commitments, with the help of God's grace, become long-lasting habits, these can and will become important in the grand scheme of God's plan for each of us. These simple, small things will transform our hearts, transform our relationships, transform the world in some small way, and ultimately lead us to Him.

In all aspects of life, we must make choices in order to take action. Let each of us be guided in our choices according to some dedicated reflection and prayer time, and then take action for the better – in our hearts, our families, our school, our parish, our workplace, and indeed the world.

I wish each of you a reflective, spiritual, but also an active Lent.

God Bless,

Mr. Bryan Doiron, Principal



**Parents/Guardians of students in Grades 7 and 8 should watch their child's backpack near the end of the first weeks of March for their Provincial Assessment Reports. Grade 7 students have been assessed by the school faculty in their observed level of Student Engagement, under various criteria which indicate their commitment and interest in pursuing and improving their own academic success. Furthermore, the Grade 7 students have been assessed in their current mid-year abilities with Number Sense and Numbers based upon observations and assessments conducted in their Mathematics 7 course. Grade 8 students have been assessed in their Reading Comprehension and Expository Writing abilities, based upon observations and assessments conducted in their English Language Arts 8 course.*

Campus Ministry

Service Opportunities

It's been a busy month for service (volunteer) opportunities for our school:

- Gr 8 students spent an afternoon at Agape Table, assisting with the Winnipeg Harvest food distribution
- Gr 9-12 students spent a morning at Agape Table, preparing and serving breakfast
- Gr 5 & 6 students spent an afternoon working in the warehouse at Winnipeg Harvest
- Gr 7 & 8 students spent an evening participating in a percussion instruments session with residents of the Rotary Villa
- Gr 5 & 6 students spent an afternoon building snowmen, painting in the snow and playing different games (Crib, Uno and the Wii) with residents of the Rotary Villa

Students were presented with these opportunities by way of classroom visits and permission slips being distributed. We have lots planned for March & April, too, for students from K-12! If you would like to be part of an email distribution list (emails will be kept confidential and sent as a blind carbon copy) to learn more about what's coming up, please send an email with your name included in the message to nicole.savard@stmaurice.mb.ca



Campus Ministry News cont'd

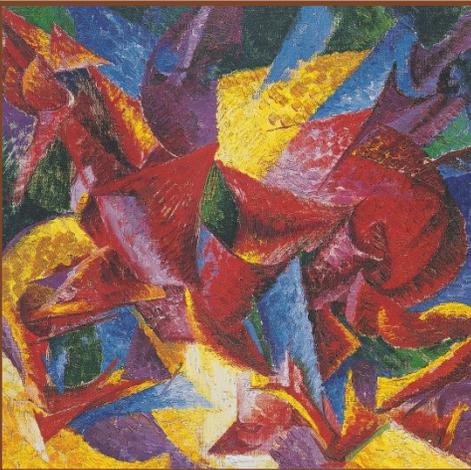
High School THINKfast – For Our Common Home

Development and Peace is the international development arm of the Catholic Church in Canada. For over 50 years, this organization has supported partners around the world and educated Canadians about their work for justice. Their THINKfast event is a chance for students to create awareness about important topics affecting the Global South, as well as raise money to help our partner organizations. This year, our theme is “For our Common Home.” The Amazon basin is home to a vast population of ecologically diverse life, yet it has suffered tremendously from unmitigated destruction at the hands of extraction industries and development. Our students have the chance to build solidarity with indigenous groups who are working to protect their home. We all benefit from preserving the health of the Amazon—it serves as a massive carbon sink against global climate change.

The THINKfast is an overnight-retreat here at St. Maurice, March 13-14. Permission slips are out to students and are due by Friday, March 6. Details are available from Campus Ministry or the High School office. Available spots are limited, so register soon!

TENTATIVE EVENT: *A first-ever, 12-Hour THINKfast! for students in grades 6-8, held later in March. Watch for detailed information, along with permission slips, to be sent home soon should this event move forward. It is designed to be a really fun and impactful experience for the participants, who will be learning more about being a global citizen, social justice, and being in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate than us (we will be fasting from food for 12 hours). Mass, prayer, a movie, music, games, lots of juice and water to drink, etc... would all be included!*

Art Show April 24th



There will be a series of **paint nights** specifically for Alumni and former students to prepare an artwork entry for the Friday April 24th Art School. The first will be on Thursday March 19th at St. Maurice in Room 204 (start time 7:30 P.M.). RSVP's are appreciated via email to gcotter@stmaurice.mb.ca or mciric@stmaurice.mb.ca but drop-ins are welcome too.

So far, the 1999 graduation year has taken an early lead with pledges of four entries. We have been promised artworks from former and current teachers and staff, as well as the 2009, 2013 and 2017 graduation years and lots and lots of maybes. If you would like to help turn the maybes from your graduation year into definites, please email us at either address above. Perhaps you would even consider being your graduation years' contact person?

Income Tax Receipts for Tuition

In an effort to save the substantial postage costs and redirect those funds to active school programs, Income Tax Receipts for the portion of the tuition which can be claimed as a charitable donation were sent home with one child from each family in late February. Please check your child's backpack for this sealed envelope addressed to the parent(s).



Re-Registration Deadline

**All Student Re-Registration Forms and Fees for 2020-2021
are due into the school office by
Friday, March 13th, 2020.**



Space cannot be guaranteed for any student re-registered after this date.

The total of the school fees due with the re-registration form for each student is **\$100.00**

An additional \$20.00 late fee will be charged for any re-registration received after the deadline.

Students for Grades 7&8 will be presented with their option course choice form near the end of the school year. Information regarding the Grades 9 to 12 option courses may be found on the school's website at www.stmaurice.mb.ca under the tab "School Life", select "Academics". Note that some updates will be finalized and uploaded to the school website in the coming weeks. By late May, all of the updated and finalized course information documents will be available online on the school's website.

Students for Grades 7 to 12 will select their option course(s) in late May or early June. Parents and students are encouraged to consult with the subject teachers, school counselor, school administrators, and/or their potential post-secondary universities/colleges as they determine the course options most appropriate to the individual student's aptitudes, abilities, interests and needs.



K-Eight News...

During the week of February 10 we celebrated Catholic Schools' week. This was an opportunity to give thanks for schools in which we practice our Catholic faith. On February 14 Catholic Educators attended the annual Catholic Schools' Day in Service. This year's theme was on Social Justice.

The K-6 Report Cards will be sent home on March 6. The grades K-6 Parent Teacher Interviews will be from 4:00 to 7:00 pm on March 11 and 12. Thank You for supporting your child's education by reviewing this assessment and attending the interviews. We strongly encourage academically struggling students to get a tutor so as to develop a work ethic, stay "on top" of their studies and learn valuable learning/study strategies.

Our annual public Open House for K-6 took place on February 6. School Administration spoke on what makes our school unique: a faith based, vibrant and safe learning community, a "family" and an academic culture where it's "cool to be smart" and how supports are in place to enable success for all learners. This was followed by school tours guided by students from Grades 7-12.

The K-6 "I love to Read" Month was a resounding success! Reading and literacy was promoted and celebrated through our opening assembly, literacy centers, the book fair, a local author's (Jodi Carmichael) presentation on writing a book and other literacy initiatives. St. Maurice students are readers and leaders!

Lastly, let's be courteous and prudent drivers in the parking lot: slow down, escort your child, follow all signage and don't block traffic lanes. Thank You for your cooperation to keep our students safe!

Patrick Bennett
Vice Principal (For K-6)

Catholic Schools Week



We celebrated Catholic Schools' Week from February 10-14. On Monday, the Grade 5 and 6 classes enjoyed a lively Catholic Schools' Spirit Day at Petrus Multi-Purpose Hall, singing and dancing as well as listening to stories of kindness and mercy. The main speaker, OJ Rivera, used music, stories, and songs to focus on spreading God's love. Our students enjoyed the opportunity to grow in their faith and have fun with their peers. On Wednesday, we gathered together to celebrate Mass with the school. On Thursday, Kindergarten to Grade 6 enjoyed a trip to Kid City. Kindergarten to Grade 3 went in the morning, and the Grade 4-6 went in the afternoon. Students had the opportunity to build community and have a lot fun with their friends.

Class Placements for 2020-2021

Please read this information carefully so that you have a clear understanding of all that is involved and why the final decision for class placement remains with the School. The Student Handbooks (in the student agenda and online at www.st.maurice.mb.ca) also present this information.

Staff will soon be meeting to determine home room class placements for next school year. This is a complex process and we are again seeking parental understanding and support. It is our strong belief that the learning atmosphere in the classroom must be the first consideration in the formation of class groupings. Classes are organized to maximize learning and teaching opportunities for students and teachers. We make every effort to minimize the potential for negative student interactions. Staff teams strive to create classes that are heterogeneous and balanced in all respects.

The following are all considered when determining class placements:

- Student performance
- Our knowledge of the social interactions and dynamics between individual students and groups of students, including friendships
- Student/teacher match
- Placement of students new to our school
- Male/Female ratio
- Parental information
- Approximate equal class size at any grade level
- Note: An additional determining factor for High School students may be the option courses selected by individual students



Given the above criteria, parents wishing to have input on their child's class placement are asked to submit their suggestions, in writing, to the attention of the Principal prior to May 1st, 2020. Please provide sound educational reasons for your requests in this letter.

Please note: If, for whatever reason, you are making a request that your child not be placed with another child, you must consider the possibility that this information may have to be shared with others so that the process is fair to everyone involved. Given all of the criteria used to generate class groupings, it may be difficult to accommodate your specific requests.

Parents can assist the class formation process by helping their children understand the process that is used to develop class groupings and supporting the placements once these are made. With appropriate support at home and at school, it has been our experience that the vast majority of placements are successful.

FINAL CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR CURRENT KINDERGATEN TO GRADE 11 STUDENTS WHO ARE RETURNING FOR NEXT YEAR WILL BE RELEASED ON JUNE 30th WITH YOUR CHILD'S FINAL REPORT CARD. Given the fact that all of the factors noted above will already have been considered, we ask that you accept that the class placement enclosed with the Final Report Card will be final.

Patriot Pride Corner



Congratulations to Sam M. from Homeroom 11A who was a recipient of a 2020 Yes I Can! Award for the Arts! Sam received his award at a formal ceremony at the Victoria Inn honouring all 23 winners of the awards presented by the Council for Exceptional Children. The program for the evening had the following to say about Sam and his achievements:

”Sam is described as artistic, honest, kind, caring and inspiring ! His growth in the areas of communication and expression of his emotions has been accelerated by his tremendous gift of thinking in pictures and fonts. Sam’s cartoon style drawings have evolved over time. His drawing has aided with processing memories and expressing his ideas. His artwork, recognized by its unique style, has been shared throughout his school and community partners. He has created parent guild posters for school events, ‘I Love to Read’ month videos and graphic novels for peers. His images of the various political leaders have been submitted to CBC and this past summer Sam was commissioned to create a history book in the form of a colouring book for Winnipeg Beach entitled, Exploring with Sam. There is a sense of pride with peers, learning through his artwork, and a positive impact of inclusion.”



I Love to Read Month

We celebrated **I Love to Read** month at St. Maurice School!

The classic story ***The Paper Bag Princess*** by Canadian author Robert Munsch was brought to our school as an entertaining and humorous play for all our students to enjoy. The Grades 4-6 students tested their Canadian authors knowledge in **The Great Canadian Book Quiz**. We had several opportunities to relax with a great book and **Drop Everything and Read** across our school. We enjoyed an author visit by Canadian and **Winnipeg** author Jodi Carmichael whose works include ***Spaghetti is not a Finger Food and Other Life Lessons, Family of Spies Paris,*** and ***Forever Julia.*** During the assembly, Jodi shared her inspirations and journey as an author. Then, Jodi held grade level sessions where she taught us how to think like a writer and how to develop “spy like” writing skills.

Students enjoyed a **book tasting** at the SMS Book Nook Café with their classmates. At the **book tasting** students were introduced to several Canadian books and shared their opinions with their peers. Some special Grade Five students read short summaries of classic Canadian books such as *Oscar Lives Next Door*, *The Hockey Sweater*, *Scaredy Squirrel*, *Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged*, and *What's My Super Power?* over the intercom in the morning.

We celebrated I Love to Read Canadian all month long. We encourage you to visit your nearest library, check out some Canadian classics, and look for some new Canadian authors to enjoy all **year** long! Happy Reading!



Indigenous Awareness

LEARNING ABOUT AND GETTING TO KNOW OUR INDIGENOUS SISTERS AND BROTHERS

On Friday, February 21st, the grade 7-12 students had a special gathering, held in the church, lead by two Metis women who came to share a bit about themselves and their cultures. Through prayer, drumming, singing, photos, clothing and story-telling, we learned not only about the Metis, but also about First Nations and Inuit people. It was a very lively gathering – the women were quite animated and humorous – and one that was well enjoyed by students and staff alike.

In the coming months, the grade 7-12 students will be learning more about residential schools, the Canadian governments' response to the schools as well as that of the Catholic Church. The grade 11s will participate in a special activity to learn more about the effects of colonization and land rights, and we have a couple more cultural events that are in the works for the grade 7-12s. Plans are also underway for the K-6 students to have similar, age-appropriate experiences.





ST. VITAL PARISH LISTENING SESSIONS

FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH - 8:00PM - 9:30PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH - 10:00AM - 11:30AM

WHAT IS A LISTENING SESSION AND WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

A Listening Session is an opportunity for parishioners to come together to offer their input on a particular topic. By gathering the thoughts of the greatest number of parishioners, the pastor, together with the Parish Pastoral Council, can get a sense of what the Holy Spirit desires for the local Church. Because we believe that the Spirit speaks to and directs each person through their intellect, there is a necessity for each person to be aware of, and open to, the Spirit's presence and guidance. Because of the spiritual nature of this exercise, the Listening Session is different from a 'Town Hall' where views and opinions may be guided by one's particular interest or agenda.

In our case, the Listening Sessions are being called to consider how we might transform our individual parishes so that they are better able to form and send out missionary disciples. *All members of the parish are invited, as well as those involved in ministry and the various organizations that serve our church.*

WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS ROLES DURING THE LISTENING SESSION

Pastor: The pastor convenes the Listening Session and leads the participants in an opening and closing prayer. The pastor is there to listen and will not respond to questions or comments. Once the session has ended and all comments have been gathered, the pastor works with the Parish Pastoral Council in discerning new priorities and goals for the community.

Facilitator: The facilitator offers a brief overview and then leads the group through a series of pre-determined questions keeping track of time to ensure things progress as scheduled. As well, the facilitator controls the open microphone part of the program to ensure people speak briefly about their main points so that the evening stays on track with respect to time.

Scribe: The scribe's job is to maintain a written record of the main points raised during the discussion and how many times that essential thought was repeated.

Moderator: The moderator's role is to ensure that everyone in each of the individual groups has a chance to speak and that no one person dominates the conversation.

Participants: The participant listens to each question and spends a moment in prayerful reflection before recording a response on the paper provided. The participant first shares his thoughts during a table discussion before addressing the pastor, during the open microphone portion of the evening.

**STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON
PREPARATIONS FOR OUR PARISH LISTENING SESSION**