

MSA

Blue & White

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2013



Exams which are set by Alberta Education. The first set was written in January and the next will be written in June. We continue to ensure that teachers are provided with professional development opportunities and other program resources so they can deliver the curriculum at the required standard. Students are receiving tremendous support in preparation for this new experience.

Over the next two months, as the 2012/2013 school year comes to an end, our faculty and staff will be preparing for many activities such as the Prom, final exams, Graduation and welcoming our new Kindergarten students for next year.

I wish to express my appreciation to the MSA community for all of the good wishes and prayers during my absence. A special expression of gratitude is extended to Margaret DiGiacomo for all of the extras that she has done in my absence. I can only express that we should be thankful for the faith we all share!

In closing, I wish you all the very best and look forward to sharing with you more on our continued successes in the next newsletter.

God's Blessings.

Principal's Message *from Sue Moench*

What an amazingly busy and accomplished year this has been so far! After hard work by our faculty and staff, MSA received its International Accreditation. The formal documentation was signed in March during a visit by Karen Slevinsky, the Accrediation Consultant from Alberta Education. MSA continues to receive an excellent report on our progress in meeting the outcomes of the Alberta Programs of Study.

This is a tremendous accomplishment and a major milestone in our vision of changing our education system to one that is recognized internationally as being rigorous, measurable and one of the best in the world. It is interesting to note, that while MSA is not the first school outside of Canada to use the Alberta Curriculum, we are

a first in being the only school to have transitioned from an existing curriculum. As we are the first, they have taken a keen interest in our success. All who have been involved will attest, the transition has not been without its challenges; change is never easy. The ultimate benefit to our students... to your children, makes it absolutely worth it!

Moving to a standards based educational program allows us to better measure student success. Accessing an outside resource to help us evaluate our progress has provided us with an opportunity to know how we compare outside the Bermuda environment. Now that we have fully transitioned to our new Program of Study, this year holds more opportunities as we begin the Grade 12 Diploma

Saintly Activities

Christmas Concert and Tableau

In December we had a very adventurous Pirate Christmas Concert and Tableau featuring White Beard as Santa (Simon Cabral). We had elves teaching the pirates all about the true treasures of Christmas. It was a very colourful and exciting concert. Our many thanks and praises to Mrs. Julie Madeiros and Mrs. Wanda Dubois for an excellent production.



Catholic Schools Week

On Sunday, January 27th MSA hosted Catholic



Schools Week with Mass at St. Theresa's Cathedral. After the Mass we welcomed families to partake in light refreshments while they browsed our various exhibits showcasing the programs offered at MSA. During the week of January 28th to February 1st we opened our school to the public allowing them to observe our School in action.

UN Conference

We are very proud of our students Brandon Sousa (Gr. 11), Amber Reid and Hamish McNiven who were selected to attend the United Nations conference in New York in March. The trip to the two day conference was organised by the Global Arts Foundation. The students witnessed UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon give an opening address in the UN's Great Assembly Hall.

Tolerance & Diversity Initiative

Between February 11 and February 22 all Middle school students engaged in a series of activities aimed at promoting tolerance and acceptance within our school community. Seven different guest speakers addressed the students on a variety of topics including: diversity in Bermuda, human rights, racism, disabilities and gender biases.

These presentations helped students to increase their knowledge and understanding of the issues and to reflect upon their role in building an inclusive community at MSA. As part of this initiative, middle school students also took field trips to City Hall to view a photo exhibit on tolerance at the National Gallery and to the National Museum at Dockyard to explore the many relevant exhibits on display.



The students have created a Classroom Bill of Rights based on their learning. In addition, they

have designed a t-shirt promoting tolerance and diversity that will serve as a constant reminder of the importance we place on these ideals.

Student Agenda Art Contest

Congratulations to Sierra Rodrigues (Gr. 4) and Nicole Pimentel (Gr. 12) whose artwork was selected as the cover for next year's School Agendas. Sierra's artwork will appear on the Elementary Agenda cover and Nicole's will appear on the Middle and High School Agenda cover.



XL Youth Conference

The Annual XL Bermuda Youth Conference is a follow-up conference to The United Nations International Schools Conference. This year the subject was "Youth Quake — An Impact of a Generation."

In past years, National Community Healing programs have been designed and launched by the youth at the Bermuda Youth Conference.

This year the subject of the conference focused on the youth in our community designing a platform which will in turn give the youth a formal voice in our community.



From left back row are Hamish McNiven, Brandon Sousa, Amber Reid, Nathan Burgess, Allison Estis, Aaron Moniz and from left front row Ciara Rego, Kinda Bassett, Christopher Peichoto, and Kennedy Middleton

The team's challenge over the two days was to design a national platform for the student body of Bermuda to have a voice in social, economic and political issues in the country.

The groups gave presentations to local and international representatives at the Conference.

Outstanding Teen Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated for the Outstanding Teen Awards:

Heather Blee – Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Overall Outstanding Teen

Shelby Camara – Community Service (*missing from picture*)

Kaelyn Castle – Visual Arts

Phillip Couto – Leadership

Rachel Fox – Sports

Nicole Pimentel – Academic Achievement, Leadership, Overall Outstanding Teen



Carifta Games

We would like to congratulate Rachel Fox (Gr. 12) who represented Bermuda in the Carifta Games. We are very proud of Rachel. Well Done!

Elementary Sport's Day

Elementary parents enjoyed an exciting fun-filled day of watching their children participate in various sporting activities on April 18th. The parents and teachers also participated in the festivities.



www.msa.bm

In January we launched the new MSA website at www.msa.bm. Here you will find information about MSA, the curriculum, the weekly Comings & Goings Newsletter and photo galleries of many of the events we host. We encourage you to visit the website regularly for updated information about MSA. In the next few months we will be encouraging families to sign up to receive the Blue & White Newsletter electronically instead of regular mail as we try to become more environmentally friendly.



Message from the Chairman of the Board Garry A. Madeiros, OBE, JP, FCA

It is exciting to report that MSA received its accreditation on March 20th by the Alberta Government in the use of the Alberta Curriculum as our Program of Study.

It is important to remember that the Board of Governors and the Administration of MSA chose this curriculum because it is based on a philosophy that students must be problem solvers, collaborative workers, community/active citizens and global thinkers. All these aspects, we believe, are critical for our future. The support provided by Alberta Education in this pursuit cannot be matched by any other jurisdiction, province or state. The standardization of outcomes and assessments provides our school with the measures necessary to assist students in their post-secondary admissions and success. With this ongoing support, we will continue to offer our students a world-class education in a safe, nurturing and faith based environment.

Three Board of Governors members stepped off the Board at the end of the last school year; Chris Coelho and Juanita Blee after six years and Kerry Judd after two years. Chris fulfilled many leadership roles during his tenure including Chair, Finance Committee, Chair, Foundation Committee

and Deputy Chair, Board. Juanita worked tirelessly in the Academic and Facilities Committees. Kerry was on the Foundation Committee and Chair, Communications Committee where she drove a new approach to our communication process. They graciously and voluntarily gave up their time, energy and skills for the school and the MSA family. I extend the gratitude, thanks and appreciation from all of us for their support, contribution and commitment made during their terms.

I take pleasure in announcing that two new members were appointed to the Board; Marcy King and R Paul Fortuna both Home & School appointees.

Marcy, nee Judd, is a graduate of MSA, class of '89 and a Chartered Accountant. For the last three years she has been working at the HW&P Group as their Senior Financial Officer. Before that Marcy was the Financial Controller at Bermuda Gas for seven years. She has been a member of the MSA Board's Finance Committee since 2008. Marcy holds a Business Administration degree from Saint Francis Xavier University.

Paul is President of Premier Distributors Ltd. and Bermuda Coffee Co. Ltd. with over 20 years of business management

experience. He is past President and Treasurer of the MSA Home and School Association and past Chairman of St. Patrick's Parish Council. Paul holds degrees in Management and Business Administration from University of Maryland.

The MSA Capital Campaign that commenced in 2006 will be concluded at the end of this school year. The Campaign which set a goal of \$5,000,000 was based on a five year pledge program. The total amount pledged was \$5,260,193 and the cash received to date has been \$5,086,559. This is a tremendous achievement and commitment by our donors when considering the economic challenges the Island has had over the last three years. Between now and August 31 we are working hard to collect, and in some cases reconfirm the commitment to pay, the outstanding pledge amount of \$173,634. Before the end of June 30, 2013 we will be erecting a commemorative plaque recognizing the donors of this Campaign. I will be writing to all the donors recapping the goals, the achievements and the planned projects for their kind gifts.

Garry A. Madeiros, OBE, JP, FCA

CURRICULUM TIDBITS

MSA offers World Language to students in Grades 4, 5 and 6. They learn about basic foreign language skills, develop an understanding of the culture and recognize and appreciate the multi-ethnic dimensions of our world.

MSA GIVES BACK

Since September 2012, MSA has raised funds through bake sales and non-uniform days. The total donations to the various charities is over \$4,800.

PALS - \$507.00

Bermuda Cancer & Health Centre - \$530.00

Bermuda Diabetes - \$689.00

Holy Childhood Fund - \$646.00

Bermuda Heart Association - \$670.00

St. John's Ambulance - \$583.00

Denim & Red non uniform day for Africa - \$555.00

St. Vincent de Paul \$623.00

We continue to count the funds for the Holy Childhood Fund. To date we have raised \$1,568.00.

In addition to our monetary donations, MSA always participates in the canned food donations and various community service activities.



KINDERGARTEN

In Kindergarten the children are learning to develop an understanding of numbers, shapes, space and measurements through hands on activities such as making pizza and lemonade.



ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL SPELLING BEE

On May 8th, Mrs. Boyle organized the Elementary Spelling Bee. After 8 complete rounds of words, the winners were; **First place:** Kayla Caldwell in Gr. 4, **Second place:** Daniel Cook in Gr. 4, and **Third place:** Ashley Horseman in Gr. 3. Other participants were as follows: Gr. 3: Sadie Leighton, Adriano Rymon-Lipinski, Kyra Kucharik, Gr. 4: Ziyee Burgess, Veronica Paulo, Gr. 5: Arin Rance, Maya Leighton, Zoe DeSilva, Justin Stovell.

On May 16th, Mrs. Boyle organized the Middle School Spelling Bee with participants including Gr. 6: Julia Pimentel, Jessica Frias, Lauren Smyth, Jada Rawlins, Gr. 7: Emily Sinclair, Billy Montgomery, Nola Mingledorff, Mackenzie Ricketts, Gr. 8: Erin McConnell, Blair Smyth, Catarina Correia. The winners of the Spelling Bee after 6 complete rounds of words were: **First place:** Erin McConnell in Gr. 8, **Second place:** Emily Sinclair in Gr. 7 and **Third place:** Billy Montgomery in Gr. 7. **Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Spelling Bees.**



Middle School Honors Assembly

Congratulations to all of our Middle School achievers. The criteria is as follows:

Honors with Distinction - An average of 90 or over, with a passing grade in all subjects.

Honors - An average of 80 or over, with a passing grade in all subjects.

Merit - An average of 75 or over, with a passing grade in all subjects.

Honors with Distinction

Grade 6 Julia Pimentel, Katrina McPhee, Caroline Amaral, Lauren Smyth and Jessica Frias

Grade 7 Hannah Blee, Miranda Araujo, Alexa DeSilva, Sabrina DaSilva, Selena DaSilva, Colin McCue and Kamryn Martins

Grade 8 Matthew Brady, Erin McConnell, Cassandra McPhee, Joshua Allen, Catarina Correia and Blair Smyth

Honors

Grade 6 Conor Sinclair, Jada Rawlins, Caitlin De Melo, Erin Cardoso, Caelin Peters, Kayla Henderson, Kofi Dill, Georgia Bevan, Tyler Card, Jacob Estis, Joseph Garca, Nathan Cabral, Cristian Roque, Blake Horseman, Yanni Squire and Kobie Reid

Grade 7 Emily Sinclair, Caleb Roberts, Christophe Boisson, Noah Brady-Soares, Nola Mingledorff and Erik Correia

Grade 8 Vanessa Cardoza, Andrew Henderson, Nathan Bridges, James Barber, Stephanie Medeiros, Simon Cabral, Ryan Smith, Michelle Araujo, Christa Boorman, Marcus Darrell, Tahnaesha Astwood, Caitlin Renaud and Kristen Bean

Merit

Grade 6 Sasha Crumley, Catia Pimentel, Kaleb Medeiros, Mya Rodrigues, Monique Cordeiro, Malik Joell and Bryanna Furtado

Grade 7 Sadiq Nurse, Kristofer Lewis, Noah Wescom, Mackenzie Ricketts, Jared Dunstan and Billy Montgomery

Grade 8 Leticia Ferreira, Kenyari Ingham, Felicia de Sa, Hunter Squire, Liam Perry and Marissa Boodram

BAZAAR UPDATE

by Jennifer Mahoney
Chair, Bazaar Committee



The MSA Bazaar is not just a yearly fund-raiser, but an event filled with tradition that sets our family apart from the rest. For days, weeks and in some cases months, we join together to pull off a two day event unrivalled by any other of its kind locally.

There are those heroes that are seen behind the stalls, working at the gates and those hidden behind the masks of construction, prize distribution and the kitchen. All of these heroes play invaluable roles and keep the event alive year after year and we cannot thank you all enough.

Be a hero in the eyes of your children and the rest of the MSA family, donate your time wherever you can, lend a hand to the stall manager that is short-staffed even if you've done a shift, reach out and simply extend a hand to make it all happen; in whatever shape that need may appear.

Everyone's effort is welcomed and we can find ways to utilize your individual "super hero" skills. This year's Bazaar will be held on October 18 and 19, 2013. Contact us today and see how you can help ! MSABazaar@hotmail.com.

SENIORS RECONCILIATION PROJECT

by Karen Wicks, Grade 12 Religion Teacher

The Grade 12 Religion class has been working with Grade One and Two children this year on different aspects of Religion. In semester one, the seniors met with the Grade One students. They talked to them, discovered their interests and then made Bible story books for each child. The stories ranged from Daniel in the Lions Den to the story of Jesus and Great Catch of Fish.

This semester, the Seniors worked with the Grade Two students who had just learned about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children were able to explain to the Grade 12's what Reconciliation meant to them and the Seniors, in turn, wrote stories for them about reconciliation. They returned to the class after the books had been made and the students had the opportunity to read the books to the Seniors. Each book was created with the child in mind but, more importantly, to teach them about saying "I am sorry" and asking God, and each other, for forgiveness.

As the Seniors near the end of their time at MSA, I want them to always remember the little ones coming up after them. It is in teachable moments like these that connections are made that last a lifetime.

How can you forget the look of awe in the smiling face of a 7 year old when they have a book made just for them!

I also wanted to focus on this amazing Sacrament of Reconciliation. It seems to be a sacrament that makes many of us uncomfortable and yet when it has been explained to you by a seven year old, it just seems beautiful. This is definitely a tradition I plan on continuing in the coming years.



Speak Out Conference

Evin Mosley and Marcus De Couto, accompanied by Mr. Tony Makowski, Curriculum Coordinator, attended the 5th Annual Speak Out Conference in Edmonton, Canada. Evin and Marcus were 2 of 4 international students to attend the conference. The other students, who also attend an Alberta Accredited school, traveled from Macau, China.

The Speak Out Conference is an opportunity for Alberta's youth to come together from every corner of the province once a year to discuss their perspectives and ideas on how to improve education. This year over 200 students, aged 14 to 19 attended the conference.

Mr. Makowski is planning to have MSA's own Speak Out Conference for High School students in September. For more information about the Speak Out Conference visit www.speakout.alberta.ca.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, May 31st from 7:00 am - 10:00 pm, the Home & School Association will host "NEON Fever" - Middle School dance in the Auditorium.

Saturday, June 15th - Home and School Association **13th Annual Golf Tournament**. It is a Captains' Choice-shotgun starting at 12:30 p.m. at the Belmont Hills Golf Club. The entry fee is \$750.00 per Group of Four, which includes green fees, golf carts, goodie bags, prizes and an on-course BBQ lunch. Please see additional details on the MSA website.

Thursday, June 20th - Graduation Mass at 10:30 am - All are welcome. The Graduation Ceremony (Invitation Only) will be held in the evening at 7:00 pm.

Friday, June 21st the Alumni Association will host their **Annual Alumni Cocktail Party** at The Royal Bermuda Yacht Club (RBYC) starting at 5:30 pm. Tickets are available from the School Office for \$20. There will be food and a cash bar. All are welcome.



The Blue & White is a newsletter published by the Development Office at Mount Saint Agnes Academy

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