

# Emergency Bursary Fund

Unfortunately, this pandemic has caused individuals to temporarily be out of work, or to have lost their jobs. This is true for many of our MSA families, as many of them work in the hospitality, landscaping, construction, and retail industries, which have been hit hard from the closures. Since the lockdown, numerous families have reached out to us and expressed concern with being able to keep their children at MSA. We do not wish to lose any of these children and would like to do what we can to keep them. We are proud of the education we provide, however in our efforts to provide the best education possible, we too struggle with meeting all our financial commitments.

In an effort to keep all our students, we ask if you would be willing to support our students by contributing to our bursary funding program. Although your donation would be a financial one, your generosity would expand so much more than that, as these children and their parents do not have to experience the loss of friendships, security and comfort by being able to remain at MSA. If you wish to contribute please do so on our website [www.msa.bm](http://www.msa.bm) or if you wish to learn more please email our Director or Advancement on [sdecouto@msa.bm](mailto:sdecouto@msa.bm).

## We Need Your Help!



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# BLUE & WHITE

The Latest News and Information from Mount Saint Agnes Academy

## Principal's Message

*While this has been a notably unique year, we have experienced many successes.*

We started off 2020 with our typical January routines. We ended the month with our grade 12 students writing their diploma exams and are pleased to share that our students did consistently well in this year's exams, achieving results comparable to students in Alberta. These successful results position them well for post-secondary options. We are very proud of their accomplishments and the hard work of teachers who prepared them for the exams.

At the beginning of March, the coronavirus that was affecting faraway places came closer to home. We learned more about the COVID-19 and its spread and impact on communities, specifically schools. On March 16, MSA's Board of Governors made the decision to close the school building and move to remote instruction at the end of the day on March 17. So began the beginning of remote instruction.

We are extremely proud of the way the MSA family came together during these incredibly uncertain times. As students, their parents, teachers, staff and administration were "finding their way," we gathered feedback from all

stakeholders, and a structured plan was developed. We can credit our successes to the outstanding instruction provided by teachers, the effective communications provided by all parties, and the willingness of students to stay the course and do their best. This is not how we imagined our school year would look for the last third of the year. It proved to be a steep learning curve for all involved.

As the situation evolved, and we moved through the post-lockdown phases established by Government, both the Departments of Health and Education provided schools with the opportunity to establish pilot schools, with prepared re-entry plans and clearly defined protocols. These protocols include close health monitoring, physical distancing, wearing of masks, increased hand hygiene, 10:1 ratio in the classrooms, and creating bubbles at the various grade levels. On June 8, we opened our elementary division for those students whose parents had returned to work during Phase 2. Once we moved to Phase 3, the numbers gradually increased and by the end of year we had over 80 percent of our elementary students returning to school. The success was two-fold. Parents were able to return to their work and children were able to gain confidence in being around their peers again, and to practice the routines of our new normal. Both middle and high school students continued with remote

learning as government protocols had not yet been developed for those levels.

The class that felt the greatest impact of the limiting of so many activities was our graduating class. With so many grade 12 traditions affected, we did our best to provide them with special celebrations to mark their long awaited senior year. On June 25, the original day scheduled for the graduation, the administration team and some teachers visited the graduates at their homes with congratulations and gifts. Photos were taken of students wearing their graduation caps and gowns with their families present. Prom was held on July 11 for all the seniors to enjoy. They all had the opportunity to walk the red carpet, were treated to dinner and witnessed the traditional crowning of prom king, prom queen and their court.

The official Graduation Mass and Ceremony were held on July 23. Bishop Wes Spiewak presided at the mass and delivered words of wisdom and encouragement to the graduates. Albeit with limited numbers, the students participated in the traditional ceremonies, received their diplomas and several outstanding awards. We are so proud of the class of 2020 and their accomplishments. May God continue to bless them as they step boldly into their future.

While this has been a notably unique year, we have experienced many successes.

## Principal's Message continued

We are thankful for God's providence and protection throughout this year and we are continuously proud of our MSA family. The consistent care, dedication and hope shown by teachers, students and our community have been remarkable.

As is often the case at the end of every school year, we say goodbye to some students and staff. We wish the very best to students who moved away from Bermuda or have left for other reasons. It saddens us to say goodbye to Ms. Lorna Wright, our high school PE teacher, to Mrs. Jackie Smith, our grade 1 teacher and Mrs. Lisa Rhind, Learning Support Teacher. Lisa Rhind has retired after 50 years associated with MSA. She was a student from grade 1 – 12 and has taught here for 38 years. She has had a long-lasting impact on our MSA community, and we wish her the very best in her retirement.

We look forward to welcoming our students back for the beginning of a new school year on September 3. At this time, we are anticipating a successful return to class for all our students, however, this will be dependent on Bermuda Government directives and guidelines. In this ever-evolving situation, we would like to continue to assure everyone that ensuring student well-being, both emotional and physical, is our top priority. As the crisis continues, shared responsibility within the school, the home and the wider community can help us work together for positive long-term effects. We wish all of our children and families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

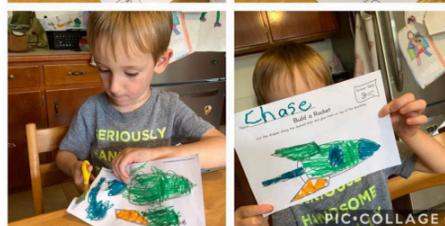
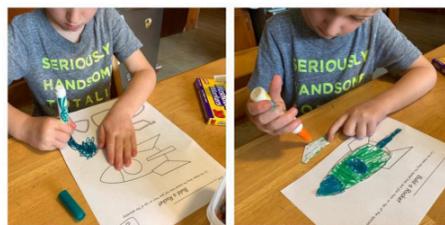
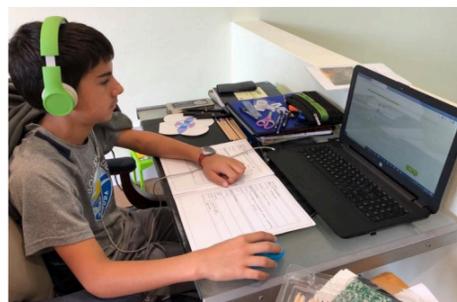


## Remote Learning



On Thursday, March 18, 2020 we closed our doors because of the mandatory quarantine due to Covid – 19. During the weeks of remote learning our students were challenged to learn remotely and parents were challenged to supervise and monitor their learning. Several parents sent in photos of their children as they worked from home. A virtual Spirit Week took place in April with great participation and house spirit. Household items were used to host our first virtual sports day. Parents, students and teachers did a tremendous job considering the circumstances. A second Bermuda themed spirit week was held leading up to the Bermuda day holiday.

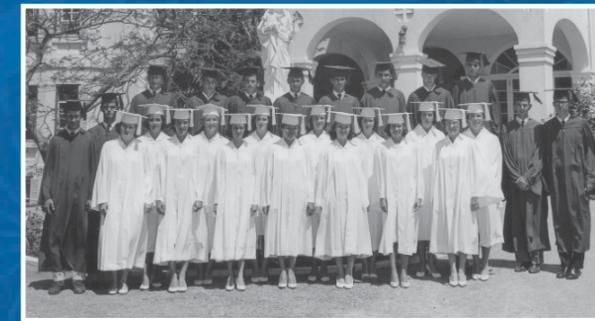
On Saturday, May 30 we hosted our first fundraising virtual event – The Late Catechism “The Home School Edition”. Sisters Maripat and Denise provided us with some much needed laughter right in our own living rooms. We sold over 80 tickets and raised over \$4,000.00 for the Emergency Bursary Fund.



## As we celebrate this years Class of 2020, let's look back at graduating classes through the decades. Was this your graduating year?



1950



1960



1970



1980



1990



2000



2010



2020

### September

- School begins.
- Back to school party hosted by the Home & School Association.
- Ring Mass.

### October

- MSA wins mural competition which was painted for the old HSBC Building.
- Jake Roberts & Lucien Penacho take part in the Robotics Competition in Dubai.
- Grade 10 students help seniors with their tech during the Security Savy Seniors event.
- Pets were blessed during the St Francis of Assisi Prayer Service.
- Bazaar was Cruising the World on October 11&12th.
- Grade 11s enjoyed the annual Canadian University Tour.
- Did someone say dress up? Halloween Parade took place in the courtyard.
- Elementary soccer team makes it to the semi-finals during the BSSF tournament

### November

- National Honor Society members volunteer during the PGA Golf Tournament.
- Middle School STEAM day included baking, origami, a domino challenge and coding.
- The Mighty Duck & Buoyonce took part in the Cardboard Boat Challenge.
- Career Day did not just include the normal items but also meditation and stretching.
- Take Your Kid to Work Day, covered over 10 different careers.

- High School Girls Volleyball teams came 2nd in their division during the Warwick Academy Tournament
- The High School Volleyball Team won gold at the BSSF Tournament
- Volleyball - MS boys second place
- Middle School Students trained with some players from the Rugby Classic
- Middle School Ruby Team brought home the silver during the BSSF Tag Rugby Tournament

### December

- Our Grade 12 played elves and different characters during the annual Marketplace Santa Clause Parade.
- Breakfast with Santa was a great treat for all thanks to Home & School Association.
- Marcus DaCosta won 1st place and Best Overall Photo in the Youth Photographic Competition.
- Grade 12 students used their decorating skills on a Christmas tree in Hamilton.
- Mrs. Jackie Tailford and Maya Leighton were praised for their volunteer work during the annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony.
- MSA took part in the Partner Re Dollar for Hours initiative by providing non-perishable food for Eliza Doolittle.
- MSA was featured in the RG magazine.
- At the Festival of Trees in Dockyard MSA's Christmas Tree came 5th place thanks to all the ornaments provided by the elementary students.
- All auditioned for Santa's choir during our Annual Christmas Production.
- Our Giving Tree raised over \$3000 for the shade project.

### January

- Julie Elliott was the Middle School Winner for the Rotary Club Christmas Essay Competition.
- 40 students took part in Duke of Edinburgh Bronze & Silver Expedition.
- Grade 4 raised monies for these wild fires in Australia.
- Our first book drive at Bookmart brought in 75 new books for the library.
- Liana Medeiros came 3rd in the U16, Kayla Raymond came home with a silver medal in the O16 girls. Savio Wilson moved up into the O16 category, achieving 13th.
- Kayla Raymond was the winner of the Senior Girls Front Street Mile

# 2019-2020 Wow, what a year!

- 100 participants took part in our first 5k Run/Walk for Your House event.
- Middle School Girls Basketball team received new uniforms compliments of the Home & School Association
- Highschool Boys Basketball Team came 3rd in the BSSF tournament

### February

- The Middle school & Elementary students took part in the first ever Math-a-thon.
- Grade 5s Wax Museum highlighted very famous persons in our history.
- Ayanna Peniston won Student Category in the Hamilton Art Competition.
- Volleyball Players participated in the Mizuno Boston Volleyball festival
- Christian Hanwell came 2nd overall in a gymnastics competition in New York
- Grade 7s & 9s attended the 2020 Digital Leadership Conference and had a blast!
- Champagne & Denim Dinner and Dancing Event took place and raised over \$14,000 for the solar project.
- Read & Feed Program collects 2 truckloads of food for Eliza Doolittle feeding program.

### March

- Mass, lunch and games were all a part of our 130th birthday celebrations.
- Sister Judith & Sister Dolores were honored with MSA banners that will hang up in the school hallway.
- MSA classes went remote and school closed to help combat the Corona Virus that took over the world.

### May

- Our very first Virtual Elementary Sports Day
- May 30th - Virtual Comedian Show - Late Nite Catechism.

### June

- Pilot School Program for elementary students.

### July

- July 11th Prom.
- July 23rd Graduation.



## Sports Gallery



Elementary Sports Video

Download a QR Reader App for free to view.





## Prom

On Saturday, July 11, a special prom was put together at the school for our seniors to enjoy. Under strict rules, masks were worn and social distancing was practiced but that did not stop them from having a great time together.

All seniors walked on the red carpet under the moon gate for individual photos. A tent with tables and chairs and special lighting was set up in the kindergarten courtyard for the evening. The girls looked beautiful in their dresses and the boys looked handsome in their evening attire. DJ Allstar (Brian Purvey) was there providing some good dancing music. Dinner was served by some of our teachers and staff.

For the Prom Court, Gabriel Burgess, Ryan Lopes, and Jacob Pimentel were runners up and Nahzai Lee was selected as Prom King. Jalisra Caines, Maya Leighton, Cailey Longworth were runners up and Ines Bolarinho was selected as Prom Queen. These seniors were nominated by their peers for their spirit, efforts and attitude during their senior year.

What a great evening.



## Graduation 2020

On Thursday, July 23, a special graduation ceremony and mass were held for our graduates at St. Theresa's Cathedral. A limited amount of family was allowed to attend the ceremony. However, for the first time the ceremony was broadcast live on the MSA YouTube channel for other family members to enjoy at home. Following safe practices, all wore masks, practiced social distancing and no live singing was performed. Below is a list of our graduates and the awards they received.

- Ines Bolarinho The Gail McCallum Kneisler Angel on Earth Award
- Nicholas Bridges The Chartered Professional Accountants of Bermuda Outstanding Student Award and Principals' Achievement Award for Perseverance
- Gabriel Burgess The Paul Leslie Smith Basketball Shield, EY Bermuda Values Award and Principals' Outstanding Recognition Award
- Chance Anthony Principals' Achievement Award for Perseverance
- Jalisa Caines Principals' Outstanding Recognition Award
- Zoe Caines Principals' Achievement Award for Perseverance
- Micah Cook Principals' Achievement Award for Perseverance
- Mia Currin Principals' Achievement Award for Perseverance
- Rachel DeCosta The Jeffrey Castro Award
- Zoe DeSilva Principals' Achievement Award for Perseverance
- Aliyah Every Home & School Association Award for Outstanding School Spirit
- Dorian Frith Nicholl Shield, General Excellence, Robert Gullon Memorial Shield, Rollo Sullivan, and BELCO Math Achievement Award
- Amber Furtado The Bentley-Doyle Award of Excellence & Commitment to Sports and Outstanding High School Leadership
- Nahzai Lee MSA Incentive Award, Principals' Achievement Award for Perseverance and the Paul Leslie Smith Basketball Shield
- Maya Leighton Principals' Outstanding Recognition Award
- Cailey Longworth The Reverend Deacon Edward Outerbridge Shield, PriceWaterhouseCoopers Bermuda Headstart Award of Excellence and the Deloitte High School Student Award
- Ryan Lopes The Bentley-Doyle Award of Excellence & Commitment to Sports and Principals' Achievement Award for Perseverance
- Macarena Perez Bellini The Most Reverend Bishop Murphy Shield
- Liam McCue
- Jacob Pimentel
- Kayla Raymond
- Callum Simons
- Ashley Soares
- Justin Stovell
- Andrew Vrieze

