



Saint Charles
Catholic School

THE CHARGER

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Estote fideles - Be faithful



Newsletter Issue: 2019 - 2020

SCCS 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

The 2019-20 school started out as a usual school year and then the world changed with Covid-19. Alumni may wonder 20 or 30 years from now what it was like during the Pandemic of 2020.

When the Department of Education mandated all schools close as of March 22, 2020, staff, parents, and students initially were told the closure would only last a few weeks which eventually turned into the remainder of the school year. Teachers quickly had to adapt to preparing websites, worksheets, and lessons that could be downloaded at home or watched on YouTube. Teachers were also readily available by phone or email to help students master concepts, hosting Zoom Meetings so students could connect with each other and to their teachers. Definitely a very different way of teaching than the hands on approach in the classrooms. Kudos to the staff during this time; they did the best job possible in a difficult circumstance and in a stressful, uncertain time.

All school activities were cancelled including the Rome trip, the annual School Musical, Track and Field, and most heartbreaking - the Kindergarten Graduation and Grade 8 Farewell. In typical St. Charles fashion, not celebrating the accomplishments of the Kinders and not saying a proper farewell to the Grade 8's, was not acceptable.

There were Graduation signs delivered to all the homes of both Kinder and Grade 8 students. The

Kinders had a special visit at each of their homes, with social distancing, by their teacher and both Principal Narynski and Vice-Principal Prettie, who were on hand to congratulate each Kinder for their hard work and let them know how much each of them has been missed.

The Grade 8's saw a car parade from all staff, Principal Narynski, and Vice-Principal Prettie whose vehicles were all decorated with blue and yellow pompoms and signs of congratulations. The SCCS car parade stopped at each Grade 8 home for a mini presentation that would not be complete without their final TRACK award and any further academic and/or sports awards. All the best to these Grade 8's who are extra special as the Class of 2020. Their strength and resilience will serve each of these young people well in their future endeavors.

The hallways don't feel the same right now. The School is patiently waiting for the kids to return, hopefully this fall, so the tradition of learning at St. Charles can continue. Best wishes to all of you and your families. We hope you continue to be safe and have an enjoyable summer!

3-2-1 Chargers

share
your
story

Our Alumni are our greatest ambassadors, and we like to acknowledge your personal

and professional milestones.

If you've got news you'd like to share, photos or memorabilia, old yearbooks, contact us by email: alumni331@stccs.ca or call the school office: 204-837-1520.

We would like
to hear from you.

keepintouch



Saint Charles
Catholic School

KINDER GRAD



Saint Charles
Catholic School

Farewell Gr. 8

★ Class of 2020 ★

GO CHARGERS! We're proud of you!

**SOCIAL
COMMUNICATION**



www.stccs.ca



<https://stccsblog.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/SCCSWinnipegMB/>

ALUMNI UPDATES AND MEMORIES

My sister Alma and I are still going strong at 80 and 81.

We remember our years in Convent St Charles with great joy and happiness. The sisters were our parents for a few years. I know that they took us in as a favor to my aunt. We were 3 and 4 years old. The youngest ever to go to St. Charles.

Sister Viateur was Mother Superior then, I believe. And pepère Michelin was many times our babysitter when the sisters were busy until we could attend class.

Years that we could never forget.
God Bless you all.

RoseMarie Wall

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RoseMarie Wall.*

+Keira's SCCS Memories 2020 – From the moment Keira set foot in



St. Charles - even before she was a student - she felt right at home. She wandered all around the school saying 'hi' to all the staff and students and gave her parents more than one scare! Keira's favourite school activities were reading, writing, math, and music, and she especially enjoyed being creative and telling stories. Other special activities included the Friendship Celebration, making gingerbread houses, Bible Celebration, Harbourview, playing in the Violin Ambassadors, track and field, and becoming a patrol – Keira was so excited during her patrol training that when the

time came to ask questions she shot her hand up and asked, "When do we get to learn how to do that flag twirling?" Keira loved all of her teachers and classmates at school and was especially thrilled to share many, many fun and happy moments over the years with her closest friends, Jane and Cate. Keira simply treasured her time at St. Charles and her strong faith was nurtured and developed through Chapel Mass with Father Glofcheski, school Masses, altar serving, and staying on TRACK. Keira was known for her busy and active personality and her sweet, kind, and polite manner. She loved to give compliments to those around her. Thank you St Charles Catholic School for loving and caring for Keira and for the support you have always shown our family.



On Monday, September 30th, 2019 the Grade 8 class participated in a Tree Dedication service in honor of their former classmate, Keira Bond.



Our Alumni are like family. And, like many families, we don't always see one another very often!

We would like to encourage you to join us for our school events throughout the year to mix and mingle and to share and support.

Events are posted on our school calendar online at www.stccs.ca.

COME BACK & VISIT. YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME.

BLAST FROM THE PAST!



ACADÉMIE
ST. CHARLES
ACADEMY

STAFF PICTURES

Do you recognize some faces? If you can help us put a name to a face please let us know at alumni331@stccs.ca



1979 ~ 1980

BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

1 ? 2 Diane Giguere-Oroure 3 ?
4 ? 5 ? 6 ? 7 Florence Maclean
8 ? 9 ?

FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

1 ? 2 Joan Macdonnell 3 ?
4 Sister Emma Berard
5 Sister Barbara McSweeney 6 ?
7 ? 8 ? 9 ? 10 ?



1989 ~ 1990

BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

1 Marie Maddox 2 Joan Macdonnell 3 Brenda Kolsun 4 Sharon Burke 5 Adrienne Lemay 6 Florence Lowry
7 Sister Regina 8 Dorothy Gair 9 Beverly Laping

FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

1 Tracy Richards 2 Sister Barbara McSweeney 3 Anita Akins 4 Orest Rosolowich 5 ? 6 Kathy Booth
7 Shirley Sylvestre



BLAST FROM THE PAST! (CONTINUED)



**ACADÉMIE
ST. CHARLES
ACADEMY**

STAFF PICTURES

Do you recognize some faces? If you can help us put a name to a face please let us know at alumni331@stccs.ca



1999 ~ 2000

BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

- 1 Sherry Langlois 2 Sean Oslowy
3 Jennifer Waroway

MIDDLE ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

- 1 Tani Major 2 Kathy Booth
6 Amy Pinnegar
7 Leisha Strachan
8 Christie Bedard 9 Dorothy Gair

FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

- 1 Sister Emma Berard
2 Sheila Jurke 3 Bill Burns
4 ? 5 Rita Pape
6 Beverly Laping



40TH ANNIVERSARY - MRS. DOROTHY GAIR

St. Charles has been blessed again with staff who do not just educate students but help shape and form them into the people they are meant to be. One of our staff members has done just that for 40 years. As of this September...she has seen many roles throughout the years that have shaped and touched the lives of more than 1,000 students. Dorothy Gair is best known by alumni as THE kindergarten teacher at St. Charles. In the early 2000's the Board wanted to explore the very new and cutting edge idea of all day kinder – it was Mrs. Gair who jumped at the chance to create and pilot this program into what our kinders experience today. Since her 'retirement' as a classroom teacher in 2003, Mrs. Gair has been the most reliable substitute teacher, agreed to work term positions, and unplanned leaves of absence, she has been a mentor, an advisor, and a champion for the students she works with. The greatest gift to St. Charles and the students has been her continued commitment to the Guided Reading Program she helped to create with Mrs. Kathy Booth – a program

for which they both received the Outstanding Educator Award from the Reading Council of Winnipeg in May of 2010. With her most recent title of Literacy Consultant ...

...there is not a more capable and respected person for the job. Congratulations Mrs. Gair on your 40th Anniversary at St. Charles...what a milestone.

Thank you



OUR GRADUATING CLASSES (1940 TO 1970)



Grade 12 Graduates
June 1940

1939 ~ 1940

1949 ~ 1950

We couldn't find a picture for this grad year.



1959 ~ 1960

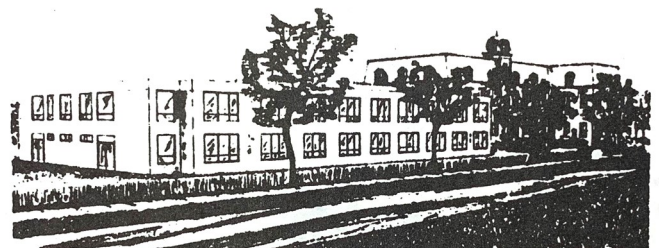
1969 ~ 1970



1 Yvonne Caron 2 Jeannette Houle 3 Pat Sanders 4 Rill Crocker 5 Madelaine Lambert 6 Jan Tucker
7 Letetisa-Ann Thomas 8 Jo-Ann Therrien 9 Helen Wojciulan

WANTED

We are looking for graduation pictures. If you can help, a copy of the picture can be sent to the school by mail or sent by email to sec@stccs.ca



Académie - Saint-Charles - Academy

OUR GRADUATING CLASSES (1980 AND 1990)

1979 ~ 1980



1989 ~ 1990



1989 ~ 1990



DO YOU REMEMBER

(Theme of the Grade 8-9 Farewell of 1990-1991)

1991



Teacher Barbara Van Walleghem and her St. Charles Academy class released homing pigeons as a project.

School project for the birds

By Ilana Simon
For the Free Press

ST. CHARLES ACADEMY Grade 3 students recently learned first hand that pigeons are no bird brains. A group of pigeons brought in for a visit to the St. Charles area school "flew the coop" recently and easily found their way back to their River Heights home.

"We got to let them fly home. Pigeons are really smart," said Grade 3 student Thomas Obendorfer. "They were cool. They looked cool and they're neat."

Grade 3 teacher Barbara Van Walleghem organized the event. Her father, Dick Van Walleghem, raises racing and homing pigeons.

"I brought them into school to give the kids a chance to look at them, hold them and see what they're like," said Van Walleghem, adding her father owns homing pigeons and races them regularly through the Belgian Club's Winnipeg Pigeon Flyers Association.

Prior to the mid-June visit, Grade 3 students at the kindergarten to grade 8 private Catholic school conducted research on pigeons, read stories and drew pictures of the fascinating birds.

Studying pigeons encompassed a number of curricula including language arts, art, science and social studies for the 25 Grade 3 students. The

homing pigeons proved fascinating to the children.

"They were really thrilled about the birds. The ability to hold one was a big thrill, and they asked me all kinds of questions," Van Walleghem said.

She recounted that they learned pigeons come in a variety of colours, such as grey, blue, red, green and white. Over the winter, they stay in their loft and Dick Van Walleghem breeds them. During the summer, they go out flying every day and Dick Van Walleghem enters the homing pigeons in weekend races from as far away as Thunder Bay. Each pigeon's leg is banded and their flight home is timed to determine the winners of the race.

"The kids found it amazing that they could find their way home from such a long distance," Van Walleghem said, explaining pigeons normally fly together in a pack, and circle around their launching pad before getting their bearings to find the direction home.

Once they establish their bearings, they travel home as straight as the crow flies. It took about 10 minutes to fly from St. Charles Academy (located near Portage Avenue west just inside the Perimeter Highway) to River Heights.

"When you drop them it's like they're going to fall down and then they spread their wings.

They circled around the school yard a few times before they found their way home," said Ken Dumas, adding that he and his classmates climbed up the school play structure to get a better view of the pigeons' flight.

Brandie Seneshen liked the pigeons and their colours. "When our teacher let them go I thought they were going to drop to the ground, but they flew away. We learned that if you bring them somewhere and let them go, they'll fly back home. They are smart," she said.

Obendorfer was also impressed by the pigeons' "neat" colours, but he didn't anticipate their size. "I thought they would be smaller than they were," he said.

Dumas and Seneshen were also not expecting such big birds.

"It surprised me how big they were. Their beaks were kind of weird," Dumas said, adding he found it surprising that the pigeons live in the top of a garage and not in a nest.

The only drawback to the birds, according to Dumas, was their claws. "I didn't like their feet, they smelled bad. It was kind of weird," he mused.

Seneshen found their wings were really big. "I liked learning about pigeons. It was fun," she said.

OUR GRADUATING CLASSES (2000 AND 2010)

1999 ~ 2000

We couldn't find a picture for this grad year.



DO YOU REMEMBER EXCERPTS FROM THE 1970 YEARBOOK

" ON HER BLINDNESS "



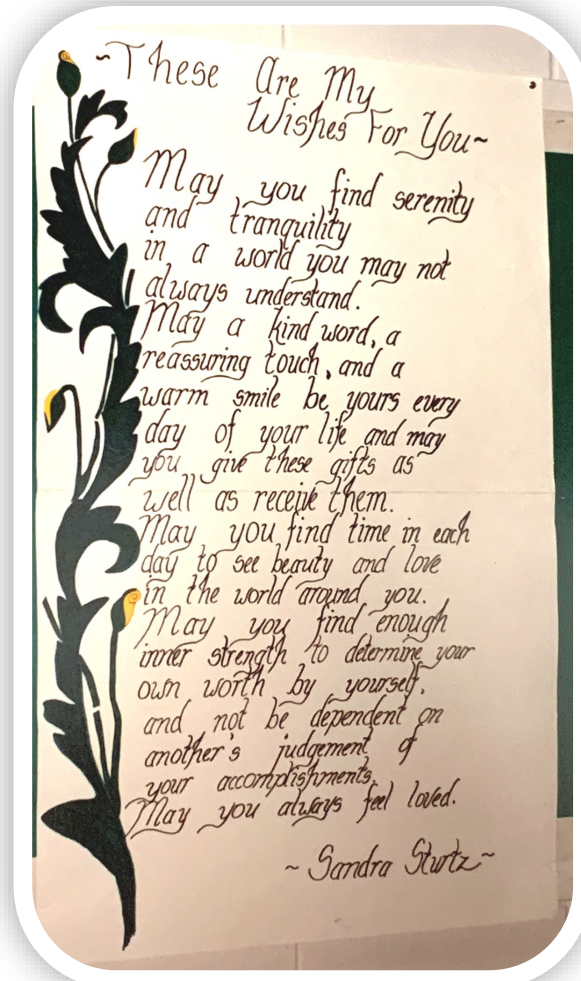
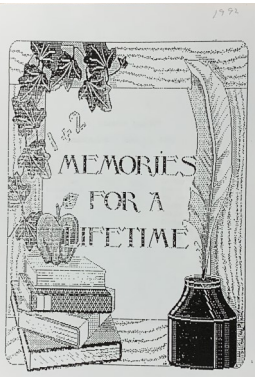
Our Senior YCS carried out an experiment to discover how it feels to be handicapped. Valerie Collins volunteered to spend half a day blindfolded.

In the report she wrote that day during her typing class she shares the insight that she gained:

"Being blind is very hard to accept. Everyone has been very nice to me and also patient; I appreciate that. I hope I can make through today without hurting myself by falling down the steps. I'll laugh when it's all over even though it's not a joke.

I wish I could take off my bandages because they're making my eyes itchy. It is an awful feeling not to be able to see what's going on around you. I'm glad I'm not blind for life. It's a horrible feeling not to see the sunshine or any of God's gifts. I realize I have something to be very thankful for, now that I know what it's like to be blind."

Valerie Collins, gr. 10




DO YOU REMEMBER EXCERPTS FROM THE 1970 YEARBOOK

God


God is good.
God is wonderful.
And he loves me and I love him.
Please god help me do very good.
Thank you god.
God is in Hevin.

NORENE HUBBS
Gr. 1



The Littlest Angels

OUR TRIP TO THE PEACE GARDENS






On Tuesday May 12, 1970, a group of 50 students left for the Peace Garden and a historical and geographical trip of southern Manitoba.

It was rainy and cold but this didn't dampen any spirits. The day officially opened by a prayer and "O' Canada".



We boarded the bus in high spirits and all but deafened our driver, Doug, with our singing and screaming until we got to Brandon. We stopped at the bus depot for something to eat and to stretch our legs.

At 10:30 we continued on our way. The rest of the trip was a lot quieter since we were all tired out. We arrived at the Peace Gardens at 12:00 and at the Centennial Pavilion, where we helped ourselves to some soft drinks only to find later that they weren't for us, but we got everything O.K. 'D.

We saw the track and danced on the amphiheater. We observed some gorgeous scenes of our Canadian Wildlife, especially during our three mile sight-seeing in the Turtle Mountains. The recent snow fall made the budding trees appear all in bloom and some green grass was peaking through its white blanket. We stonped at the University of Brandon and visited their fauna museum. We had the pleasure of meeting Who T. Owl esquire, a baby horned owl being raised by our agreeable host, a biology professor. We sang our way home where we arrived at 8:00 p.m. very tired but greatly delighted.

Karen Wilson, Grade 8.

MEMORIES
ARE TIMELESS TREASURES OF THE
heart

Our Oblate Sisters



HOW CAN I HELP?

St. Charles Catholic School believes that every child should have the option of benefitting from a Catholic education. Thanks to our **Student Bursary Fund**, we are able to welcome families from all circumstances. Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated and will ensure the Bursary Fund's ability to assist. **Thank you** for your ongoing contributions towards this important fund.

Donations over \$20.00 will receive a tax receipt and can be forwarded to:

St. Charles Catholic School | 331 St. Charles Street | Winnipeg MB | R3K 1T6

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION

NAME: _____

MAIDEN NAME: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

GRADUATING CLASS: _____

☐

I have enclosed my membership fee of \$10.00. Please continue mailing a hard copy of "The Charger".

☐

I have enclosed an additional donation of _____. Please send a tax receipt to the above address.

☐

Please send the Electronic Charger to the above electronic mail address and enter my name in the draw for a "CHARGERS" Toque.

☐

Please contact me about upcoming fundraising events.



2019-2020 Grade 8 Class - Best wishes in your new schools

Over the years at St. Charles Convent, Academy, and finally St. Charles Catholic School, there have been many milestones that have all served in the role of defining the overall mission of Catholic formation of youth in west Winnipeg and beyond. From its origins as St. Charles Convent on September 10, 1906; when the Missionary Oblate Sisters opened its doors to 41 students... to 1962; when the name changed to St. Charles Academy with the addition of a library, swimming pool and science laboratory... to the year 2000; when the school became known legally as St. Charles Interparochial School and commonly known as St. Charles Catholic School... the common factor that has been present throughout the years has been the students who came to St. Charles for a Catholic education. More than 7000 students have passed through these doors over the years, each one with their own cherished memories of what St. Charles has meant to them. May we always take the time to remember and reflect on the unique role that St. Charles has played in the community of west Winnipeg, and in our lives, and to be thankful that we were fortunate enough to be a part of this amazing school community.



Let us honour our dear Alma Mater. Let us sing in one voice her fair name.
Greater schools there may be, but none dearer to our hearts than the one we acclaim.