



Saint Charles  
Catholic School

# THE CHARGER

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2010

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ROBYN'S VIEW	1
PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE	2
ALUMNI NEWS	3
MEMORIES FROM THE OBLATE SISTERS	4
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. CHARLES	6
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011	7
ANNUAL ROBERT MORRISON GOLF TOURNAMENT	8
HOW CAN I HELP?	9
OPEN HOUSE INFO	10
MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION	10



## ROBYN'S VIEW

As time continues to go by at lightening speed, life brings new challenges and triumphs to us all. No one knows better than the Oblate Sisters.

The sisters have been preparing for the winding down of their Order for some time now, and with that, have come some difficult decisions. Some of those decisions, that we as a community have seen, have been the Sisters divesting themselves of the school first and now the Retreat Centre.

As the Order moves towards a new era, we as a school are faced with a time where the Oblates are no longer a stone's throw away. As an alumni member and a current parent in the school, this thought is unbelievable to me. The Sisters are the foundation the school was built on and their vision continues to drive the school forward even today.

We have been fortunate, with the help and dedication of Edith Ugrin (nee Havixbeck) 42-53, to have some of the sisters share their memories of their time at St. Charles, which we hope you will enjoy.

The school and the Board of Directors wish to celebrate the Oblate sisters and their everlasting contributions to the school. A Celebration Tea will be held in the spring.

On behalf of the school and the Board of Directors, I invite each and everyone of you to be part of this special celebration.

Information will be available on the web-site or by contacting the office mid-March.

3-2-1 Chargers

**Robyn Powell (deBeer)**  
'82-90, Alumni Rep, Board  
of Directors



*Pictured above: Back row —Sr. Marie-Luce Roy, Sr. Cecile Fontaine, Sr. Marie Beaupre Sr. Solange Bourgeois, Sr. Alice Arnal, Sr. Bernadette Desorcy, Front row—Sr. Emma Berard, Sr. Pierrette Caron, Sr. Jeanne Cromier, Sr. Aline Bertrand*



# Principal's Update



**Student  
Enrolment**  
**2000—174**  
**2010—237**



The 2010-2011 academic year has been an exciting one. By choice, we have smaller class sizes this year. To accommodate the ever-increasing student enrolment, we added yet another class, bringing our total to twelve classrooms in grades K-8. The addition of two combination classes has enriched our programming for the early years! The boys and girls volleyball teams were exceptional this year, winning all their games during regular season play. Their coaches **Mr. Vann, Mr. Shawa, Ms. Kirkpatrick and Ms. Smith** are to be congratulated on developing such strong teams. We look forward to basketball season.

**Mr. Katch**, our music teacher, added violin instruction to the Grade 3 curriculum, and is now directing over a hundred young violinists, 3 choirs, a rock band, and an Orff ensemble. This spring the groups will all be performing at the Winnipeg Music Festival.

**Mrs. Laufer** is thoroughly enjoying teaching Kindergarten this year together with **Mrs. Klassen** in the adjacent Kinder room. Kinder registrations are now being accepted for the upcoming year. Please check our school website for specific dates and times.

**Mrs. MacKinnon and Mr.**

**(Selina Gelinas**, Prime Minister, **Morgan Hay, V-Shawa** have been working closely with Student Council PM) and are looking forward to the upcoming spring dance.

**Ms. White** started a Curling Club with the students this fall that meets once per week at a local rink. Together with **Mrs. Lynne Lachance, Mrs. Booth, Mr. Katch, Mr. and Mrs. McKeigan**, they have taught the students how to slide, throw and play an entire game.

This week, our students participated in the annual Christmas program over a three night period. The production this year was based on A Christmas Carol and used a script written by our staff members: **Ms. Kathleen Henry, Mr. Katch, Ms. Langlois and Ms. Robson**.

We have had some exceptional visitors to our school throughout this year: **Fred Penner** has been working closely with our music students helping them learn to write their own songs. **Ms. Nancy Drake** is continuing to meet regularly with the drama students introducing them to the intricacies of stage work.

Since 1906, the Oblates have continued to be a significant part of our community. We are blessed that

they have chosen to always be available in every way possible. We will always remember **Sr. Regina** who served as school historian for whom there is a plaque by the library. The community would

not be the same without **Sr. Emma**, who is still serving as our Pastoral Coordinator and often fills in as Principal Designate. **Sr. Cecile** and **Sr. Berthe** are always "just a phone call away". The students especially love knowing that the sisters at the Retreat Center are a "part of us", and the classrooms with windows facing the street are able to set their watches according to sisters going on their daily walks. Every time anyone of us meets face to face with an Oblate, be it at school Masses, concerts or ceremonies, we are assured of their ongoing prayers and support. Together, as a community we continue to grow in grace and wisdom. Thank-you, sisters! May God bless you!

# Alumni News

By: Lorraine O'Neil (nee Fifi)

I just finished reading the tribute to Sr. Regina Chicoine and am very impressed. I was a border at the same time as Jeanine LaFleche. She has now passed away. Gisele McKenzie passed away in the past couple of years. I believe Georges may still be living in Winnipeg and if so, he will be the only one left.

I used to read as much as I could lay my hands on any books available. I loved history and read history books on England, for some strange reason even though I was brought up in a French speaking family.

My sister Denise was a good writer (Denise Fifi). The nuns saved one of her stories that she wrote on the adventures of a ten cent piece. What I wouldn't give to get me hands on that. Of course, I know that would not be possible. She also wrote a book which I had given to her boy friend when she passed away ten years ago. Now John passed away last year and we cannot locate her book. I do now recognize how good the nuns were at teaching.

I appreciate the education I received at St. Charles as well as Ecole du Sacre Coeur in Winnipeg. I completed my education here in Montreal at Concordia University with a B.A. degree. My eldest son is married to an East Indian girl and she has chosen her daughter to a Catholic school because of the quality education.

My other school mates who were very important to me were Florence and Simone Roy, June DeGagne, Irene Madler. Irene was very talented in both music and art.

Keep up the good work.

By: Adele Peloquin (nee Laurier)

Jacques and I celebrated our 65th in July 2009, so as you can imagine, we do not even walk very fast. All the children from east and west and everywhere were here to celebrate. Aren't we lucky to get so much love from our family—69 if I can still count every nose!

## **St. Charles Alumni Student Receives Knights of Columbus Scholarship Award!**

The Charleswood Knights of Columbus Council congratulates St. Charles alumni student Matthew McDonald, as the Council's 2010 Catholic High School Scholarship recipient. Matthew is a recent honour roll graduate of St. Charles Catholic School.



The Alumni sends sympathies to the family of Angelique Bale (Conan) on her passing on April 17, 2010. Angelique attended St. Charles from 1938-1940.

# Memories from the Oblate Sisters

During the years that we the Oblate Sisters, were at St. Charles Convent/Academy, there were on average about 100 boarders and 20 or more sisters. Among our many duties we had to help in the kitchen.

Our day began at 5:30 am. We dressed and those who had no assigned duties met in the chapel for prayers. Those who helped in the kitchen went to prepare breakfast for the boarders and the sisters. At 7 am we went to the chapel to attend Mass with the boarders. After mass we went to the kitchen to help serve breakfast to the boarders and the sisters.

The kitchen was located at the south end in the basement of the 1906 wing, which was demolished in 1976. There was a cast iron stove and counters all around. There was an island in the centre. In the 60's we had an electric stove and later a gas stove. There was always one sister who was in charge of the whole kitchen. One sister in charge of peeling potatoes. This was done by a machine and some of the boarders would help finish the job. Sylvio Lafleche, who attended the convent as a day pupil would help cut up the meat. We all helped with the vegetables, picking them up in the garden and preparing them for meals. The boarders would also help with the dishes.

Next to the kitchen was the dining room for the boarders known as the refectory. There was a little window through which the food was served. There was also another little window through food was served to the sisters. We brought the food to each table. The refectory had 14 long tables with drawers for each boarder. The older girl sat at each end of the table. There were six girls on each side of the table. They each served food to six girls, three on either side of them.

Each girl had a drawer for her cutlery and butter dish. In the evening one of the girls would help a sister pass out the butter/peanut butter. A small square of butter or teaspoon of peanut butter was put in each dish.

In the earlier years food was not plentiful and therefore nothing was wasted. Sugar was scarce. Syrup and molasses were used as a substitute.

Breakfast, which was served at 7:30 consisted mainly of oatmeal porridge or red river cereal and toast, butter, jam/peanut butter and cocoa. Soup, meat, potatoes and vegetables were served at dinner, at 12 noon and supper at 6 pm. Dessert was cake, pudding or fruit that we canned and sometimes home made pie.

At 4 pm, after classes a piece of bread with molasses/jam was offered to the girls. We served cookies on special occasions. And if the parents paid an extra 5 dollars they had a glass of milk. Also if the parents provided extra fruit for their child, they would have some and noon and supper.

There was a large garden along the river where we grew all of our vegetables. We also did a lot of canning. Rhubarb was also grown. Fruit was not always available. With permission we could pick crab apples in the vicinity of the golf course. But we had to bring scissors to cut the stems so we wouldn't break the branches.

Mr. Mager who had property southwest of the church near the river allowed us to pick cherries and crab apples. We would also go across the river

on the ferry and pick wild fruit, cherries and saskatoons.

In the early fifties we had some chickens at Nazareth. Nazareth was a three storey house where the grade 11 and 12 students slept. It was located just northwest of the school yard. The chicken coop was at the back of Nazareth. We also had a supply of eggs as well as meat.

Those were good old days and life was enjoyable. Thank you to the boarders for all their help.

## The following sisters shared the above memories:

Sister Solanges Bourgeois  
(1967-68, 1969-77)

I also served as life guard and helped clean the pool area. At the end of the year I helped clean the classrooms.

Sister Bernadette Desorcy  
(Sister St. Ubald)

1949-58 taught Sunday School

1962-66 taught gr. 6 religion

I also helped cleaning up the pool area, washrooms and change rooms.

Sister Cecile Fontaine (Sister St. Roger)

1958-60 kitchen and student supervision

1964-68 taught gr 3 & 4, also Sunday school at the Air Force Base

1971-75 taught gr 5&7 and Sunday School at the Academy

Sister Aline Betrand (Sister Joseph de la Providence)

1943-51 helped in the kitchen

1968-71 taught high school subjects

**SEND US A MEMORY OF YOURS.....**



1971-72 replaced a teacher at the end of May, taught gr 12 history & biology

1980-81 taught gr 4

### **Milestones and memories**

A few milestones in my career, as a teacher in St. Charles Academy from September 1973 to June 1979 might be of interest to my former students. Guess who?

At the time, the so called St. Charles Academy had a principal that belonged to the Order of the Oblate Sisters. Among the staff from the grade 1 to grade 9 inclusively were lay teachers and a few religious (nuns) and two Marianists, one Father and one Brother with teaching certificates trained for the grades taught.

Being a private school, the institution received a minimum grant from the school division. Students who enrolled in the school paid a minimal fee. However during the year different types of fundraising were organized to maintain the school in operation. To mention a few, teachers organized chocolate drives, bottle drives, raffles, marathons, plays, bingo, Christmas concerts, Spring Tea and occasionally students and staff were selling hotdogs, chocolates during lunch on certain days, during the month. Each morning, whenever the drive was on, the teacher in

charge of the classroom had the responsibility to collect the money from the students and each classroom's share. Was forwarded to the office. What a hassle and why I say this? Well sometimes it disrupted the discipline of the classroom.

Frankly, after the Lord's prayer, the O Canada and the roll call, I would have preferred to begin my daily lesson but it was time to collect money. Nowadays we sometimes say, "Without money, you don't go too far." Some days as a group, a good fifteen minutes were lost, especially when one student had forgotten his or her share at home or misplaced the amount collected in his or her school bag...Yes it was a chore.

As a teacher I enjoyed to teach the subjects assigned to me, such as science, religion, French as a second language. As a committed individual my focus was to prepare future citizens ready to meet and cope with life. The most powerful source in human nature is the spiritual technique taught in the Bible. As a catechist, I emphasized the importance of taking the responsibility for living their faith and abiding to the Christian values. "If ye have faith...nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matthew 17, 20. "Love another. It is basic, and essential in everyday's life."

Another objective was to help my students pursue a profession and continue to study at the University. I tried to instill in them the values of integrity, responsibility, and commitment. Many of my students were astounded and delighted after some Educational and fun excursions. e.g. Do you remember the few days spent at Camp Arnes with several outdoor activities, cycling to Assiniboine Park, Cruising on the Red River to experience a day at Lower Fort Garry as well as crossing the dam at Lockport, etc.?

The role of the Academy was not uniquely to permit students to acquire a diploma and find a job. We, as teachers were to form the individual to think positively, creatively so he or she may be responsible, dependable and reliable in his or her duties as a Canadian citizen. Thus with deep religious faith, out attitudes were more important than facts.

Today, I thank the Lord knowing that the school had some help from five parishes to maintain its goals and standards. Bless the students who attend and those who donate time and money with such marvelous generosity.

Sr. Marie Luce Roy  
(1973-1979)

# What's Happening at St. Charles!

## St. Charles Catholic School's 12<sup>TH</sup> Annual Dine Around

Mark it on your calendars! Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the school will be holding its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Dine Around Fundraiser.

We will begin taking reservations on Wednesday, December 15<sup>h</sup> in the office. There are two ways you can attend the Dine Around this year. If you have a table of six already, then you may purchase a table for \$240. However, if you wish to spend a fun night out but haven't found a table of six... then let us help you. Individual seats may be purchased for \$40 per person and we will find tablemates for you. This event is an excellent way to get to know other parents in the school and to also have a nice dinner with great company.

The night of the event, we will gather in the school gym for a Wine & Cheese reception. There will be a Rainbow Auction with wonderful prizes for the diners to take a chance on. Before everyone leaves, we will draw names for which restaurant your table will attend. Then the diners are on their way for a relaxing night out with their dining companions.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on January 28<sup>th</sup>!



## Student Achievement Awards 2009-2010

Louis Caron Award  
Music Student of the Year  
Michael Solomon

Robert Morrison Leadership Award  
Gr. 8—Exceptional Leadership  
Shane Thiessen

Jordan Paige Citizenship Award  
Gr. 8—Exceptional Citizenship  
Matthew MacDonald

Diane Giguere O'Rourke Award  
Gr. 1 Citizenship  
Mackenna Lyon

Damian Mills Award  
Strong Athletics and Academics  
Kyra Thiessen

Gladys Belhumeur Volunteer Award  
Exceptional Volunteerism  
Joanne Brownlee & Athena Dinos

George Jones Memorial Award  
Strong Athletics and Academics  
Ivana Zagrodnik

***Please contact Dr. A. P. Penny, Principal at 837-1520 or [dr\\_penny@stccs.ca](mailto:dr_penny@stccs.ca) if you are interested in sponsoring a St. Charles Catholic School student award in honour of a loved one.***



## Board of Directors for the 2010-2011 School Year

When St. Charles Academy was re-incorporated to become St. Charles Catholic School in the year 2000, by-laws were written to outline the governance structure of the "new" school. As St. Charles is the only school in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg to have multiple churches as owners, much thought was given to how to effectively manage the school and the interests of parents and parishioners alike.

The structure that was adopted is as follows:

St. Charles Board of Directors:

- 1 parish representative from each of the 5 member-parishes. Reps are appointed by the parish priest and terms are at the discretion of the parish priest. The Parish Representative does not have to be a parent in the school. Total of parish reps is 5.
  - 1 Alumni Representative who is appointed by the Board.
  - 1 Parent Advisory Council Representative who is the Chair of the PAC. PAC is open to all parents/guardians in the school and the Chair is elected from the members at the last meeting of the year.
  - 4 parent representatives – parents must have a child attending the school for the duration of the rep's term.
- Terms are 2 years and are staggered so there is continuity among members. Where there are more applicants than positions available, an election will be held.
- Up to 4 ad hoc positions, which are Board appointed. These positions are to allow the Board to seek outside expertise in particular skill or professional areas.
  - 1 Corporate Board Representative who is the parish priest chosen by the 5 owner-members as the Chairman of the Corporate Board.
  - 1 Principal – who is an *ex officio member* meaning she/he has no vote. Why? Because the principal is paid by the Board so it would be a conflict of interest. Board members do not receive reimbursement for their services.

The Board of Directors for the 2010 – 11 school year are as follows:

### Parish Representatives

- o Blessed John XIII Vacant
- o St. Ann's Ann Ferguson-Brown
- o St. Paul the Apostle Cara Callbeck
- o Our Lady of Perpetual Help Anne-Marie Ford
- o St. Charles Parish Norbert Thibert

### Alumni Representative

Robyn Powell

### Chair of the Parent Advisory Committee

Denise George

### Parent Representatives

- o Bill Hall
- o Stacey Kulbacki
- o Janine Turnbull
- o Vacant

### Ad Hoc Positions

- o Athena Dinos – *ex officio member*
- o Scott Stephanson

### Corporate Board Rep

Fr. Gerald Langevin

### Principal

Dr. Penny

## Robert Morrison Annual Golf Tournament

The Annual Robert Morrison Golf Tournament was held this past June 15th. Moving the tournament to our next-door neighbors, Glendale Country Club proved to be a fantastic move for the tournament.

We were pleased to be able to honor Bob's memory with his parents, Frank & Marilyn Morrison, Bob's wife, Allison and his two oldest children, Brad and Christine.



As always a strong presence of our Alumni was in attendance for the golf tournament. Thank you to everyone who came out for a great round of golf, fantastic food and to celebrate Bob.

**The Robert Morrison 11th Annual Golf Tournament** has been set for **June 14th** at Glendale Golf and Country Club. Start looking for a foursome to enter in our tournament! There will be great prizes and fun for all skill levels. Registration forms will be available in the spring at [www.stccs.ca](http://www.stccs.ca)

*The Chocolate Sale, Spring Raffle and Golf Tournament generate a total of \$30,000 each year for St. Charles Catholic School—thank you for your support!*

Pictured Below: St. Charles Alumni Members: (Back Row) Bill Hall (81-83), Eman Turner (82-84), Andrew Calista (77-84), Sandro Foianesi (75-84), Tom Houlahan (79-80), Gerad deBeer (85-94), Harry deBeer (61-61). (Front Row) Shelley Hall (Rhodes) (85-87), Louise Mallot (Keough) (51-56), J.P. Madden (75-83), Christine Morrison (04-07), Robyn Powell (deBeer) (82-90)





# Thank You for Your Support

Thank you to our Alumni for their generous support of our Spring Raffle and Chocolate Drive.

Both of these events have deep roots in our school. Many of our alumni have the opportunity to participate in these fundraisers at the parish level. Together these fundraisers account for \$20,000 a year in revenue.



## How Can I Help?

St. Charles Catholic School believes that every child should have the option of benefiting from a Catholic education.

Thanks to our Student Bursary fund, we are able to welcome families from all circumstances. Last year, the school sponsored \$40,000 in bursaries to families in the school. A collection was also taken up at our Christmas Concerts this year with enough money donated to sponsor an entire tuition! Donations of all amounts are greatly

appreciated and will ensure the Bursary Fund's ability to assist.

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

Thank you for your ongoing contributions towards this important fund.



Thank you to the following for your generous donations in 2009/2010:

**Adele Peloquin (Bremaud) 35-37**

**Dirk Schmid (81-84)**

**Marlen Preun (Bentler) (40-50)**

**Marie Webb (39-46)**

**Janine Girard (Keough) 59-71**

**Helen Costello**

**Edith Ugrin (Havixbeck) (42-53)**

**Maureen Houde**

**Holmes Family**

**Anne Schafer**

## Kindergarten Open House

Tuesday, January 18th, 6:30 p.m.

## K-8 General Open House

Thursday, February 24th, 6:30 p.m.

## Afternoon Open House

Thursday, March 17th, 1:00 p.m.

St. Charles is a K-8 school, offering full day, every day kindergarten, a violin enrichment program, K-8 French, a hockey skills development program, arts and drama, as well as before and after school care. Academy Kids Daycare is also located on the premises. For more information, please call St. Charles Catholic School at 837-1520

*Quality Education that is Intellectually Challenging and Faith Filled*

**Thank you to  
DYCOM Direct Mail  
for their generosity  
in printing this  
Newsletter**

[WWW.DYCOM.COM](http://WWW.DYCOM.COM)



## MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATING CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ ☐ I have enclosed my annual 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" Touque

☐ Please contact me about upcoming fundraising events.

**Congratulations to Janine Girard (Keough) for winning the Chargers Touque Draw.**



**Saint Charles  
Catholic School**

**RETURN ADDRESS:**

331 St. Charles Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3K 1T6

POSTAGE

LABEL