



THE CHARGER

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

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ROBYN'S VIEW

Finally, our long winter has come to an end, and you can feel the energy of spring and summer in the air as people start to emerge from their homes and begin their outdoor activities. I, myself, feel energized and up to whatever the task at hand might be. Recently the Board of Directors had a full day retreat which was an opportunity for us to sit down as a Board and focus our attention on our vision of St. Charles Catholic School and where we

want the school to be in 5-10 years. I couldn't help but take a moment to appreciate how far the school has come since the sisters opened the doors to St. Charles, 103 years ago. Then, St. Charles Street was only a dirt road and a few buildings as far as the eye could see. Taking in all the history of the school and seeing where we stand now, truly puts a smile on my face. SCCS is a small Catholic school on the banks of the Assiniboine River

that has defied all the odds and in 2009 is still running the vision of the Oblate Sisters of a Catholic School. As I looked around the table at the other Board members, I felt a swell of pride to be sitting at this table with these people, who all recognize how special SCCS is and who see the unlimited potential. The future looks bright indeed! 3-2-1 Chargers!!!

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

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

May is a joy-filled month, rife with invigorating and revitalizing conversations. As the school year draws to a close, we spend time reviewing the past 10 months as we prepare for the next year. We have so much to be thankful for this year!

Congratulations are extended to our students who represented St. Charles and who were successful at the Manitoba Science Symposium: Elsa Kaka, Patricia Navarro and Matthew McDonald. Congratu-

lations to Willie Hoople who represented St. Charles at the Canwest Spelling Bee this past April. We had several special visitors to the school this past February to help us celebrate "I Love to Read Month", including His Grace Archbishop Weisgerber, the Honourable Peter Bjornson, Chrissy Troy (Hot 103) and singer songwriter J.P. Hoe.

We were so excited that the Boys and Girls Basketball teams made it to the finals this year. Being a

"young" team, their growth through the season was impressive. Thanks to the coaches Mr. Foianesi, Mr. Espinoza and Mr. Vann our students grew into competitive athletes exhibiting great sportsmanship. We had a large number of students participate in the Badminton season which is ongoing. Again, kudos to the students and the coaches.

The Before and After School Program grew beyond our wildest dreams this year, thanks to Ms.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE CONT.



Gr 7&8's enjoying Winter Camp!

"Wonderful school, supportive environment, strong academic program." - Parent Survey Spring 2009



Grade 4 students showing their Uniform Pride!

Ana Carreiro and her team. With an average of 80 students, it has become a small community within our community.

We are proud of the Grade 7/8 students who embarked on a whole new adventure this year and laid the groundwork for our future Grade 7/8 students to visit Rome. Mrs. MacKinnon spent the year in teaching the students about the History of Rome, and the team of Mr. Whitfield, Ms. Athena Dinos, and Mrs. Jennifer McDonald developed a wonderful tour that spanned seven days in Italy. The group was able to visit the Eternal City, Pompeii and Assisi and thankfully returned home just before the earthquake.

Enrollment is looking promising for next year. We anticipate the largest number of Middle Years students since the parishes assumed ownership of the school. Through interviews and applications, we are finding that families are choosing St. Charles because of friends who highly recommended it because of the strong academics, the close-knit community rooted in faith, and the exciting Before and After School Program.

And, last but not least, we are thankful for the ongoing support of the Alumni who attend our fundraisers, contribute to awards and bursaries, give their time and donate items that will enhance our academics. Our students look toward you as the ones who were once in their shoes and the persons they, too can become. For this reason, especially, we ask you to keep in touch with St. Charles and

please let us know what you are doing, where you live and why St. Charles was important to your success.

Please join us at any of the upcoming events, including Founder's Day on June 19, the Grade 8 Farewell Mass and Ceremony on June 24th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Charles Parish, the Grades 1-7 Awards Ceremony on June 25th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Charles Parish, Kinder Grad on June 23rd at the school, and the Golf Tournament on June 9th at Larters at St. Andrews Golf Course.

Together, the students of St. Charles past, and the community of St. Charles present, can realize our mission of "not merely the transmission of knowledge, but more so, a faith experience incorporating the body, mind and spirit."

Estote Fideles!

Dr. Penny Parzyjagla
Principal



I'M GLAD I'M BACK AT ST. CHARLES"

Awhile ago Dr. Penny asked me to write a letter about being back at St. Charles. I was happy and ready to get started.

I'm glad that I'm back at St. Charles because there is less bullying and more friendship opportunities. It is also more fun and challenging work than public school.

The teachers are very nice and I like the fact that there are more activities. [lunch hour, after school, etc.] I can list a few: Junior Choir, Senior Choir, and intramurals.

The teachers are really nice. They give more opportunities for learning to be fun.

I'm just so glad I'm back at St. Charles!

Emily M. (Grade 4)



"Rome was a splendid, superior learning experience"

- Willy H., Grade 7

REFLECTIONS FROM ROME '09

"Our Trip to Rome - by Glynnis S., Grade 7

Amazingly, I got to go to Rome with some of my friends. My favourite thing that we went to see was the Colosseum. You would think the Colosseum is just a tall building that you've seen only in pictures. That's what I thought. I soon found out that the Colosseum is bigger than what I thought. There was so much history packed into a 1-2 hour tour. We saw everything from where the animals were kept to where the spectators sat. We were lucky to go somewhere that has so much history and ancient architecture. I loved Rome and I

hope to go back and remember every funny moment I had there (everyday) with my friends"

"Grade 7 & 8 Trip to Rome —by Willy H., Grade 7

In Rome there were lots of attractions. Some of these were the Spanish Steps, The Colosseum, the Vatican and the Sistine Chapel, the Trevi Fountain and much, much more. The grade 7's and 8's explored all of these and some other places too. We went to Pompeii, an ancient town next to Mount Vesuvius, and to Assisi, a small town on a mountain. We

even explored the Roman Forum and the Catacombs. We had many experienced guides and received compliments for good behavior from almost all of them (even the hotel receptionists, too)! Rome as a splendid, superior learning experience".



Alumni News

Calling all Classmates from 1984!

"I am still working for an environmental consulting company in Winnipeg and am currently implementing an environmental database system. Would like to know what happened to all the others from class of 1984".
- Dirk Schmid

Please contact:
dirk-schmid@hotmail.com

The community of St. Charles Catholic School was saddened to hear the news of Mr. Nicholas Laping's passing on February 26, 2009. Mr. Laping was the grandfather of St. Charles alumni students Nicholas and Hayden Laping, as well as the

husband of Mrs. Beverley Laping (past grade 4 teacher). Our prayers are with the Laping family.

Birth Announcements

Susan Ludwick is due to have her second child – a sister for 2 year old Koen.

Cathy Ludwick had her second child in May – a baby sister for 6 year old Jessica.

Robyn Powell (nee de-Beer) 82 – 90 and her husband Dan and big sisters Skylar (7) and Brooklyn (4) welcomed baby Ethan in April.

If you would like to include any news in the Alumni Newsletter, please contact us by writing or e-mailing sec@stccs.ca



Kid Writing in Kindergarten!

History Corner

The first kindergarten class was in the dormitory of the 1906 building with 20 students and their teacher, Sr. Jeanne-de-France (Claire Ruest).

According to a former student, this was past the old furnace and up a narrow stairway. There were a lot of big old windows but were covered by blinds. The children napped on the dorm beds and used wool blankets. This area served as the kindergarten area for 9 years.

If anyone has photos to share from those days or memories they would like to share, please feel free to send them to us and we will put them in the next newsletter.



HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP WEISGERBER INSPIRES STUDENTS!

St. Charles participated in "I Love to Read Month" this past February, which is celebrated across North America and highlights the importance of literacy skills throughout life.

The students enjoyed a variety of readers who visited the school, including His Grace Archbishop Weisgerber, Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Winnipeg Goldeyes pitcher, Brandon Kintzler, singer/songwriter, J.P. Hoe, Sharon Blady, MLA, City Councillor, Grant Nordman, Hot 103's

Chrissy Troy, Children's Author, Joanne Klassen and Police Officer Colleen Grant. Here's what one of our students had to say about His Grace's visit...

"When he came I had a great time! And it wasn't just the story expression. I actually found it more interesting after he read than during the story. He told us very cool facts that I was quite interested in. Our talk took up a whole class and I wish it was longer. I don't always enjoy reading, but he made me more inspired to read a lot more" - Mary C., Grade 5 student



His Grace Archbishop Weisgerber visiting the Grade 5 class!

HOW CAN I HELP?

This section is dedicated to some of the ongoing projects in the school.

Smartboards are the new technology wanted by schools across the province. SCCS was able to bring two smart boards into the school through a grant for the French Program. The school's long term goal is to have each classroom equipped with this fascinating technology. It's the short term goal to purchase two additional smart boards by Christmas. Each smart board is worth \$3,500.00.

St. Charles is an aging building with several

areas that are needing attention:

1. Window Replacement
2. Sidewalk leading to the front entrance needs to be repaired.
3. Kitchen upgrades—cupboards, countertops and appliances.

Last year, the school sponsored \$40,000 in bursaries to families in the school. As times have become difficult for families in our community, it weighs heavily on our minds. Some of our children may not be able to continue, their academic experience at St. Charles.

Donations of all amounts are greatly appreciated and will ensure the Bursary Fund's ability to assist.

SPRING RAFFLE!

The school's annual Spring Raffle fundraiser will be getting underway in the next couple of weeks. The draw date is June 25th at 3:00 p.m. Prizes are as follows:

- 1st prize—\$1,000.00
- 2nd prize- \$500.00
- 3rd prize—\$250.00

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please call the school office at 837-1520.

"We have been very happy with our experiences at SCCS. We have recommended the school to many".

- Parent Survey Spring, 2009

Students from Mexico Enjoying their Experience at St. Charles!

St. Charles had the opportunity to host two grade 8 students from Mexico this year! Staff and students enjoyed getting to know Ana and Martha Sofia and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We will miss you!

If you are interested in accommodating a student from Mexico for the upcoming 2009/2010 school year, please contact Lorne and Adriana Zagrodnik at 889-7522. Families would be paid \$575/month for their support. Through your help, the school would have a more diversified student body at the Middle Years Level and a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet some new friends from Mexico!



Our Library is Growing!

On the library front, students are enjoying 75 new books from the February Book Fair. Della, one of our dedicated library volunteers, has catalogued approximately 9,000 books over the last nine years!



We're on the web!
www.stccs.ca

9th Annual Robert Morrison Texas Scramble Golf Tournament

COME JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AT The 9th Annual Robert Morrison Texas Scramble Golf Tournament

Tuesday, June 9, 2009
Larter's at St. Andrews Golf
and Country Club
Lunch at 11 am—Tee off at
12 Noon

**\$125 per individual
player
or \$500 for a team
of 4**

Includes:

18 holes at Championship
Level Golf Course
Complimentary Cart per
Twosome
Texas Scramble Rules
Complimentary Lunch
before tee off
Steak dinner following
round of golf
Prizes for every player

Plus prizes for.....
Longest Drive
Straightest Drive
Closest to the pin
Hole in One wins a CAR!
Putting Contest

Please call Kristin
Foianesi at 885-3834 or
foianesi@mts.net for
more information
Or visit our website at
www.stccs.ca for regis-
tration and sponsorship
forms



**Thank you for supporting
Catholic Education**



Grade 7 & 8's on their trip to Rome! Visits included the Vatican, Trevi Fountain, The Colosseum, Assisi, Pompeii, Sistine Chapel and the Catacombs!

ROMA 2009

"It was a trip of a lifetime!"



Visiting Assisi for the Day!



SR. EMMA'S CORNER

REFLECTION ON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

We have once again come to the time of the year when parents are in the process of choosing a school for their children. We have had three Open Houses at St. Charles and enrolment for the 2009-2010 school year looks promising. Why would parents entrust the education of their children to a Catholic School? I would like to offer a reflection on Catholic Schools, on our role and responsibilities as transmitters of faith to the students entrusted to our care. We are invited to be shepherds called to lead our students to the Good Shepherd who came to bring us all into his fold. My reflection will be based on a few important points that Sr. Clare Fitzgerald gave us as food for thought at the Catholic Schools Day a few years ago. She was speaking to Catholic School teachers and administrators but I do not doubt for a minute that whatever she said applies to parents who are the primary educators of their children. Sister reminded us that we have to teach our students to be authentically human – as humans we are body and soul. She rightfully pointed out that at our core we are spiritual and that God offers us a human journey. Jesus says to us, “I offer you new life. I promise you eternal life.” And she added, “If you can find a better offer, take it.”



Our Catholic schools are faith-based. They are institutions of learning where everyone must be taught to see, to recognize God in everything and everywhere. As Sr. Clare said, each and every bush is a burning bush. Like Moses, we must recognize God's presence in that burning bush. If our students are not led to believe this reality they will spend their life plucking blackberries from the bush, unaware. When we recognize God's presence, we take our shoes off for we are on holy ground. According to Sr. Clare it is imperative to ask our students if they want to become saints, that is, to become what God is calling them to be. Are we afraid to challenge them to fulfill this call to sainthood? Don't we all know that our world needs holy people!! Another point worthy of reflection is what Sr. Clare called the three P's of Catholic Schools. Catholic Schools must: **PROCLAIM:** Proclaim God. Proclaiming that there is a God is no easy task nowadays for that is not what our modern day society proclaims. **PROVIDE:** Catholic Schools must provide space and time for the Holy in a caring environment based on how we treat each other. They must also provide space and time for the intellect. **PROMOTE:** Our Catholic learning institutions must promote social justice. If we want a just world we have to educate for justice. Sister made an interesting distinction here. Giving food and money to the poor, that is charity. Looking into and trying to change the systems that keep people in poverty, that is social justice. As we promote social justice we must keep in mind that God hosts hope.

We were also reminded that we, as Catholic educators, are guardians at the gates of wisdom and mystery. Quite a task! I think that if all of us, as a school community, take time to ponder on these “gems” that Sr. Clare offered us and work on bringing them to fruition in our lives, we will be able to accompany and guide our students on their human journey towards sainthood. Happy reflection!

St. Charles Students Making a Difference

I was very privileged to join Mrs. Laufer and the Grade 5 Class during their April visit to Heritage Lodge. The students gave an excellent violin performance, followed by cookie decorating and eating! As I was putting performance equipment away, I could hear the 5's chatting with their elderly friends.

"It was beautiful to see the young and the elderly enjoying each other's company"

Our students were so considerate, making sure to speak in clear voices and asking their friends questions about the performance and cookies.

It was beautiful to see the young and the elderly enjoying each others' company!

Mme. Langlois



As members of the greater community, our students have been recognized for their generosity of time and talents by volunteering at Deer Lodge Center, Westdale Community Club, Winnipeg Harvest and Heritage Lodge Personal Care Home.



ATTENTION ALL 2009/2010 HOCKEY PLAYERS!

St. Charles Hockey Program is inviting "Friends of St. Charles" to join our hockey program. The program will be held on Wednesday mornings from 6:50 a.m.—8:20 a.m. at the Allard Arena. Our program is open to students in grades 3-8 at all skill levels and their friends or teammates. For information regarding our Hockey Development Program for 2009/2010, please contact Mrs. Henry at thenry@stccs.ca.

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Please let us know as soon as possible so we can keep you up-to-date with St. Charles news , activities and upcoming events.