



Saint Charles  
Catholic School

# THE CHARGER

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Estote fideles - Be faithful



Newsletter Issue: 2022 - 2023 Part 2

### SCCS 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

The 2022-23 School Year began full of excitement with the return to in person learning. The school was able to return to providing full access to enriching school experiences, various clubs and extracurricular activities. As the safety and health of the students and staff remained a top priority, the focus was on re-establishing relationships and routines that support student learning and routines, success, and well-being.

The first of many school/family events of the year was the back to school community BBQ. It was so great to see such a large group of parents coming to join their children at the end of the school day to socialize, let the kids play together, and to get to know each other a little more. After what was such a long period of social gathering restrictions, you could feel the excitement of everyone being able to spend some worry free time as a large group.

Our first fundraisers of the year began with the Old Dutch Chips fundraiser, Chocolate sales, and Raffle tickets. As with years past, these have proved to be a great way to help give back to the school community early. The benefits of these fundraisers can often be unseen, but they are an invaluable part of the school, and allow it to offer some of the extra programs we all enjoy.

The Book Fair, a student favorite, wrapped up the month of October. It's always so nice to see students,

young and old show such an interest in reading outside of what is expected in their curriculums. A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the Book Fair possible again this year!

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### AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBYN POWELL

Many of you in your time at St Charles have been lucky enough to spend some time with Robyn Powell. As a former student, parent, board chair, current past board chair, and outgoing alumni committee chair, its safe to say few people have spent as much time on a volunteer basis at the school as Robyn has. With that in mind, we thought it would be a good time to have a quick chat about her role on the Alumni committee.

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**JG:** Do you have any highlights you could share from all of your time at St. Charles?

**RP:** When our daughter started kindergarten in the fall of 2006 the enrollment was at 217 students which seemed like such an improvement from when my parents were Board members in the 1980s,

... cont'd page 4

### WE SAY GOODBYE TO TAMMY NARYNSKI



As many of you have heard, the St Charles community is saying goodbye to our Principal at the end of the 2023-24 school year. I say our Principal because she is just that. Tammy has spent decades devoting her life to educating our children, but she has also been there for us as parents, to help support and guide us through difficult times, and to celebrate along side us as our children reached goals and achievements throughout the years.

Earlier this spring I spent some time with Tammy interviewing her for this article, because like many, I didn't know her whole story. And what better time to learn her story than when we prepare to say goodbye.

When Tammy was a little girl, she played school all the time, and never once considered pursuing any other career. She just knew she would be a teacher. Fast forward to her university graduation and she immediately entered the education world as a substitute, but knew from the beginning she wanted her own classroom.

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**SOCIAL  
COMMUNICATION**



204-837-1520  
alumni@stccs.ca



www.stccs.ca



/SCCSWinnipegMB/

## AN INTERVIEW WITH TAMMY NARYNSKI

.... Cont'd from pg 1

Luckily after just one year as a sub, Tammy began teaching grade one at St Maurice School. She spent 17 years there, 12 of which were teaching grade one, and 5 more teaching kindergarten.

Lucky for us, Tammy's principal left St Maurice for St Charles, and she soon followed. Being closer to home, Tammy began her tenure at St Charles teaching grade one yet again. She always loved teaching primary and envisioned spending her career in the primary years. Soon she would be in charge of a pilot project combining grades one and two. It didn't take long before her natural leadership skills were noticed and she was approached to apply for the vice principal role. Despite having never considered the administration path prior, she knew she could succeed as an administrator and decided to apply. Just as she showed a dedication to her education from a young age, she prepared for the interview with a list of 150 potential questions. Tammy became a teaching Vice Principal for 6 years, then transitioned to a half time teaching role, teaching grades 6, 7 & 8 Religion. Before too long, Tammy was then approached by the board to consider the Principal position. After some careful consideration for the big step, Tammy's husband reminder her that "she owes it to herself to try". Even though Tammy describes taking on the role of Principal as one of the biggest challenges of her career, I think the results speak for themselves.

There have been plenty of rewarding moments in Tammy's career. To no surprise her first answer to that question was her students. "... all the things I have learned from them are such a huge part of the educator I became." Becoming an administrator, and navigating through COVID also proved to be rewarding, which she did as one of the leaders of this St Charles Community. Being approached by the Superintendent to sit on the Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools Board of Directors was another rewarding experience, and an ultimate sign of respect for her dedication to education.

When asked who has inspired her over the years, "one of my former Vice Principals years ago. He and I had many discussions about being an educator, and he gave terrific advice which instilled confidence in my teaching abilities." Of course her students also inspired her, are more recently, our current past chair of the St Charles Board of Directors, Robyn Powell, and current Board Chair Trish Farkas "... have definitely inspired me. Their belief in me and giving me the opportunity to do this job is amazing, and I'm so grateful to both of them." As an educator, I asked Tammy what are some of the biggest things she has learned over her career. "Every child deserves respect, and it doesn't matter how old they are. If they know you respect them, it makes your job as an educator much easier." She continued "I have also learned that sometimes you must just listen. Not only with children but also your staff." She also mentioned that reputation is everything "I've always appreciated that and held it sacred." Safe to say the St Charles reputation has only benefited from Tammy's time with us, and will continue with the team she leaves behind.

When asked if she has any regrets, "Education has been my entire life... I have faith everything in my career happened the way it was supposed to." Which leads us to her successor, Mrs. Aneta Prettie. "Aneta and I have worked together for the past 19 years. We started when she was hired to teach grade 2, and I was teaching grade 1. For the past 5 years we have worked as the administrative team. I couldn't think of anyone that I would want more to take over my role. She is professional, intelligent, and she loves SCCS as much as I do. I have great respect for Aneta, and that she is the best choice to take over my role at the end of this school year."

We are all going to miss Tammy, and to no surprise she will miss the community. "One of my favourite parts of this job is getting to know the students, staff, and parents. I wish I had more time each day to chat with people, I'll miss making those connections." Lastly, she'll miss Mrs. Prettie. "Aneta is my right hand, we are such a strong administrative team."



Mrs. Aneta Prettie

Mrs. Tammy Narynski

My final question for Tammy was if she had any parting words for the St Charles families, past and present. "I hope that they know that everyone I have encountered has left an impression on me, and they have helped shape the leader, and person that I am today. I have appreciated their support, understanding, trust, and kindness throughout the years. I'm a better person because of them and so very grateful."

As I finish this article honouring our principal, Tammy Narynski, I'm reminded of a quote. "A teacher has two jobs, fill young minds with knowledge, but more importantly give those minds a compass." On behalf of us all, thank you Tammy for giving us knowledge, and helping us use our compass.

***Good luck in retirement.***

**SCCS 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR**

.... Cont'd from pg 1

Also at the end of October, the grade 8 retreat was held at St Charles Parish. The grade 8 students had the opportunity to acknowledge their last year at the school, and prepare for their Farewell Mass in June. The theme for the retreat was "growing in faith through the work of the Holy Spirit." For a second year, the Donda Youth Group from St. Paul the Apostle Parish led the retreat. Students participated in prayer activities, reflections, and games to develop their understanding of the theme. A big thank you to St Charles Parish for giving us the space for this retreat.

Congratulations to Max, Jackson, Danny, Mitch, Charlotte, Harry, Kaitlynn, and Jessica for participating in the middle years cross country run at Kilcona Park. They all did a marvelous job representing SCCS.

We had an amazing, and successful Family Bingo Night in November! It was wonderful to see such a great turnout of SCCS families for an evening of fun and games! Thanks again to all the volunteers, the people who donated prizes and our families that participated in this fun event.

In early December, one of our Grade 8 students, Gbalabo, had the opportunity to work with members of Project 11. During a morning at the Ice Plex, Gbalabo was able to interview some hockey players. She was able to talk to several Winnipeg Jets players, including Blake Wheeler, Mark Scheifele, Josh Morrissey, and others, about mental health and dealing with stress. After watching the Jets and Moose practice, she was given Connor Hellebuyck's children's book, and a Jet's hat. She later was invited to drop the puck at a #HockeyTalks Winnipeg Jets game which supports the NHL's public awareness about mental health. Thank you Gbalabo for representing SCCS at such important events!

Prior to the Christmas break, we were able to enjoy the annual SCCS Christmas Concert. If you haven't been to one in a while or

have yet to attend one, it's a fantastic way to kick off the holiday season. Each grade at SCCS showcased their hard work and Christmas Spirit as they performed the music and songs they had been practicing. So come and enjoy the festive carols, catch up with other parents you may not have seen in a while, and support the school while doing so! We hope to see many of you there again next year!

The new year began with a happy announcement, Mme McIsaac welcomed her baby girl Everlee Cornelia. Congratulations to her and her husband as they became new parents!

At the end of January the Knights of Columbus presented book certificates to winners of the "Keep Christ in Christmas Colouring Contest". SCCS had 11 winners in total, 4 of whom were sent on to the provincial contest. A very special congratulations to all 11 winners, and to Charlotte, Kaylee, Lillian and Vanessa whose pictures were sent to the provincials. Congratulations to Charlotte on winning her group at the provincial level! Well done!

In March, Melissa performed at the Winnipeg Music Festival and won gold for both her singing performances. Way to go Melissa! The SCCS community is so proud of you! It really is special how well our community is represented by our students at so many special events throughout the school year!

In April some of our middle years students were at the U of Manitoba for the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium / Provincial Science Fair. Dylan and Mitchell received Bronze medals for their project on "Does the Temperature of Hockey Pucks Affect their Speed." Harrison received a medal for his project "Get Bready for some Mold" and won the Aspire Bakeries award for best project related to baking/food. Logan won a medal for his project "How Does an Automatic Hand Sanitizer Work" and was awarded the Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Engineering Award. Amy won a gold medal for "Radiation Around Us" and won the Wise Kid-Netic Energy Award AND the best Physical Sciences Project

award. Amy was also one of six finalists to attend the Canada Wide School Science Fair in Edmonton, where she later won a SILVER Medal!

Have I mentioned we have so many students to be proud of at SCCS? As the year came to a close we said goodbye to the grade 8's as they pursue their high school education elsewhere. As with every year, we hope that the foundations they have learned in their time at SCCS will lead them to further success for the next four years and beyond. As for our remaining and soon to be joining SCCS family members, we hope all of your children find their own success in whatever they undertake while at SCCS, and afterwards. In the meantime, a happy, safe, and fun filled summer to everyone, and see you next school year!

If you would like to reach out to the alumni committee please do so with the following email address: [alumni@stccs.ca](mailto:alumni@stccs.ca)

**3-2-1 Chargers****MILLENNIUM TIME CAPSULE**

**It's been 25 years! The unsealing will be happening this coming school year. Can't wait to see our student messages. Prophetic? Insightful? Stay tuned!**

## WELCOME OUR NEW ALUMNI TEAM MEMBERS!

### Jeremy Giguere

SCCS/SCA Student 1987-1992



I'm a born and raised Winnipegger who attended St Charles in the late '80s, early '90s with my sister. My late aunt was also a grade one teacher at St Charles in the early 1980's.

After graduating from the University of Winnipeg with a Sociology/Criminology Degree, I began my professional aviation career.

My 18 years as an airline pilot had me living and working in Winnipeg, Australia, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates. COVID brought my family back to Canada and within a few weeks of our arrival we joined the SCCS family. My son began Kindergarten in the fall of 2020 and is about to enter Grade Four.

I'm very excited to join the Board as the Parent Alumni rep, connecting with current families and past alumni, as well as helping the Board with all projects over the coming years. I hope to see you all soon at some of our great events and gatherings.

### Alexandria Lillies

SCCS/SCA Student 2001-2010



My name is Alexandria Lillies, and I am very excited to be a part of the St. Charles Alumni Committee.

St. Charles holds a very special place in my heart, as I started Kindergarten there in 2001 and graduated in 2010. The school and the people made a significant impact on my life and shaped who I am today.

After St. Charles, I attended high school at Linden Christian School, graduating in 2014. I then pursued my passion for linguistics at the University of Winnipeg, and I am currently studying Psychology at Athabasca University.

Currently, I work at Apple as a Technical Specialist while continuing my studies in psychology. I live with my fiancé and our dog, and we are planning our wedding for next summer. I look forward to giving back to the St. Charles community and connecting with fellow alumni.

*Estote fideles - Be faithful*

## AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBYN POWELL

... cont'd from page 1

when there was 170-185 students. To have been an active member in helping to secure the bright future of SCCS has been truly rewarding. I feel that I have been so blessed to give back to a school that has done so much for myself personally as a student and for my children.

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**JG:** Was there anything specific to alumni chair that you found especially memorable or rewarding?

**RP:** There are several projects that were very important for the function of the School but the one that is special to my heart and I feel really speaks to the heart and center of this community is the stain glass tribute to the Oblate sisters above the main doors of the 1913 building

.....

**JG:** What do you hope for the alumni committee in the future?

**RP:** I hope the recent grads continue to be interested in SCCS.

.....

**JG:** How can SCCS Alumni become more involved in the school?

**RP:** We LOVE to hear from Alumni! It would be amazing is we were able to get Grad pics of all the graduating classes and complete the grad wall by the cafeteria.

*Robyn Powell (DeBeer) was a student at SCCS from '82-'90 and an Alumni Rep since 2009. Thank you Robyn for all your support in this role through the years!*

**3-2-1 Chargers!!!**

## ROME TRIP 2023

During spring break 2023, 16 of us embarked on a trip of a life time together to Italy. We returned full of so many great memories! I will never forget this experience or this group! Thank you to all of you for your support throughout this trip. You were an amazing group to travel with and were so helpful and supportive. We went everywhere we could and saw all the main sights of Rome, the heart of all civilization. We also travelled outside of Rome to see the countryside and south to the city of Pompeii. We did all of this in just 8 days. In fact, we walked over 82 km in total. That is incredible!

- A. Prettie



## OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES ...

*God called and I must leave you*

We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of the following SCCS Alumni members, our deepest condolences to their families.

† Lorraine A. "Laurie" Walczak (nee Pedlar) was a student at the School from. Laurie passed away on October 13, 2023. Lorraine attended SCCS from 1946-1949, grades 3-5.

† Jeannine Jolicoeur (nee Pelland) attended the School from. Jeannine passed away on May 13, 2023. Jeannine attended SCCS from 1946-1949, grades 4-6.

† Sister Lucille Bonin, a Missionary Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart and of Mary Immaculate, passed away March 5, 2023. Sr. Bonin was a teacher at SCCS in 1966-67 and 1977.

## ALUMNI MEMORIES AND UPDATES



### Alumni Updates

#### Christopher Pickles (1960's)

Went to St. Charles in the sixties. Favourite memory: at lunch, in the winter, tobogganing down to the river. Currently Christopher is a professor in the Department of Mining at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. This is Chris' class. Not sure on grade or year.

Do you recognize some faces? If you can help us put a name to a face please let us know at:

[alumni331@stccs.ca](mailto:alumni331@stccs.ca)

## LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON FORMER STUDENTS

Received this email from the family of a former student:

"To St. Charles Catholic School Winnipeg Manitoba, for your archive we send you this beautiful photo of two girls from your renowned boarding school. On the left, Jeanne Brodeur. On the right, Germaine Lips. Germaine Van Braeckel (Lips) passed away on 16-10-2011 as a widow of Joseph Joe Van Braeckel. We hope that you can add this photo to your archive! If you were to find more information on Germaine Lips, we would greatly appreciate it. We would be pleased to receive a reply on behalf of the family of Germaine Lips Van Braeckel and De Rave.



We need your help in updating our Alumni Network. We are hoping that you will find this a great place to stay connected/reconnect with your classmates/other alumni and reminisce about SCCS.

It was great seeing many of you at Mrs. Narynski's retirement party and hearing the laughs and stories that were shared about your time at SCCS. It didn't matter what years you attended, the energy and comradery was amazing!

Stay in touch! Visit our Alumni section on the SCCS website and send us an update on what's happening in your life.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## OUR GRADUATING CLASSES (1952 ~ 1953, 1962 ~1963, 1972 ~ 1973)



### 1952 ~ 1953

GRADE 12

#### LEFT TO RIGHT:

Yvonne Gélinas, Theresa Paupanekis,  
Lorraine Devlin, Lorraine Laflèche,  
Beulah Stangl, Edith Havixbeck,  
Rosaline Chartrand.

### 1962 ~ 1963

GRADE 12

#### LEFT TO RIGHT:

Valerie Fisher, Yvonne deRoquigny,  
Germaine Verhaeghe, Janet Pelletier



### 1972 ~ 1973

GRADE 12

**FRONT ROW:** Janice Renkewitz, Donna Russell,  
Alice Gendreau

**SECOND ROW:** Deborah Hayward, Denyse  
Lambert, Diane Laflèche

**THIRD ROW:** Jill White, Alice White, Colette Laurin

N.B. Last Grade 12 class.

## OUR GRADUATING CLASSES (1982 ~ 1983, 1992 ~ 1993)



### 1982 ~ 1983

GRADE 9

**FIRST ROW:** Angela Athanasopoulos, Reetu Bharadwaj, Lisa Walker, Mike Sitko, Jackie Treffers, Darlene Weber

**SECOND ROW:** Kelly Farrell, Kerry Richardson, Douglas Dick, Maelynn MacLean, Candyce Ibbott, Lisa Wawryk

**BACK ROW:** Michael Brugger, Brenda Norris, Jonathan Devlin, Morgan Porath, Ian Boyd, Bernadette Demong

Teacher: Mme Shirley Sylvestre

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

share  
your  
story

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

We would like  
to hear from you.

keepintouch



### 1992 ~ 1993

GRADE 8

**FRONT ROW:** Jodi Baxter, Amanda Cancade, Scott Stroh, Jaycee Lavallée, Jodie Miller, John Lachica

**SECOND ROW:** Craig Mazepa, Curran McNicol, Damian Mills, Chris Petryna, Nick Rowe, Matthew Côté, Sean Sandney

**THIRD ROW:** Justin Kulbacki, Nicholas Louizos, Chris Bullock, Kanwal Kumar, Andrew Stevens

**MISSING:** Natalie Eklund, Kathleen McNeil, Andrew Seymour

Do you recognize some faces?

If you can help us put a name to a face please let us know at:

[alumni331@stccs.ca](mailto:alumni331@stccs.ca)

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

## OUR GRADUATING CLASSES (2002 ~ 2003, 2012 ~ 2013)



### 2002 ~ 2003 GRADE 8

**FRONT ROW:** Kaeleigh Fraser, Patrick Thibert, Michael Loschiavo, Nicole Sheedy, Brydan Mackie, Kaitlin Couture, Georgina Alexiou, André Desautels, Thembani Mdluli

**MIDDLE ROW:** Ryan Caron, James Struthers, Alex Miller, Justin Lovegrove, Rochelle Fondaumière

**BACK ROW:** Alex Boyd, Kendall Dumas, Rick Duha, Daniel Pokornik, Travis Corner

**TEACHER:** Mrs. Shirley McKinnon

## WANTED

We are looking for graduation pictures. If you can help, a copy of the picture can be sent to the



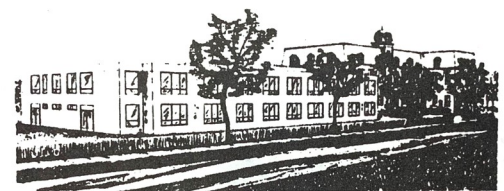
### 2012 ~ 2013



We need your help! Sending us pictures would be greatly appreciated.

We have a tradition of taking grad pictures on the front steps of the school.

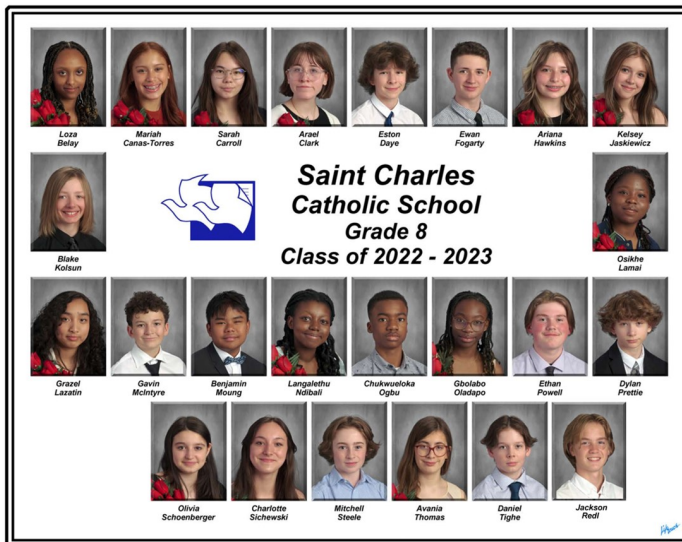
If you have any pictures, do send them in. Would love to have them in our Alumni files.



*Académie - Saint-Charles - Academy*

## OUR GRADUATING CLASSES (2022 ~ 2023)

### 2022 ~ 2023



## BLAST FROM THE PAST (MEMORIES FROM THE SCHOOL ARCHIVES)



1923 - 1924 In Front of 1913 Addition. It Still Exists Today.



Parking Issues through the years.

Proof in the pictures!



Parking has been an ongoing headache for administration and parents for many years. I'd say this was pretty tight parking!

## TAMMY NARYNSKI'S RETIREMENT PARTY JUNE 11, 2024

Thanks to all who came to the party. Wonderful to see all our former students/families. We had a blast!



COME BACK & VISIT. YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME.

## 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. 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 contact me about upcoming fundraising events.

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.



Coming this Fall

### World's Finest Chocolates Fundraiser:

Our students/families will be out and about selling chocolates. Please contact the school office if you would like to satisfy your sweet tooth and support our fundraising efforts!

**SCCS Raffle:** Ticket raffle with great cash prizes. If you would like to support our fundraising efforts by purchasing a ticket or two, please contact sec@stccs.ca or 204-837-1520.

*thank you!*

HOME OF THE



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.