



December 2009

Ignition



Brown, Orange and Red

Sometimes my children's sense of fashion and colour co-ordination appalls me. "Go back upstairs and get changed. You can't wear those together," is a phrase that is frequently on my mind, if not my lips, when my kids come downstairs dressed for school. My eldest used to have the habit of putting brown pants (with a lovely orange racing stripe) together with a powder blue t-shirt, which just made my teeth clench when I saw it. I like to think that reminding him that those colours do NOT go together every few days actually sunk in but the fact is that most of his clothes now are in shades of blue, grey or white and therefore all go together so he doesn't really have to think about "what goes with what" when he gets dressed. Now no one knows he's colour-challenged but his family.

My other two though ... their taste makes me laugh so hard I cry, or cry so hard I laugh. Unmatching socks (one navy, one purple), a blue t-shirt, lime green shorts and a red sweatshirt isn't uncommon on the youngest. Those same brown and orange striped pants with a red and blue sweater is frequently to be found on the middle one. It's like they try to put on as many colours as possible in one day.

Sometimes I think school uniforms are definitely the way to go, if only to save my sanity.

"But it's my favourite shirt." "I like the way this looks together." "They're my clothes, can't I wear the ones I like?" All of the things they say remind me that God made us all different for a reason, and while I can attempt to teach

my children the things I value regarding colour co-ordination and how to dress nicely, they're going to have many different tastes that I might not appreciate, especially as they grow older. Their taste in music, movies, video games, clothing ... even hair style and colour is going to vary greatly from mine. I've tried to teach them that being unique is a good thing - don't be like everyone else, have your own thoughts and form your own opinions regardless of what other people say, and I guess it's time I took my own advice and remembered that letting them be unique and express themselves through what they choose to wear is a good thing.

As long as the clothes are clean and not ripped, bring on the brown, orange and red!

Tracy Zapp

The Principal says...

As we prepare for the birth of our Saviour this Christmas season, I pause to reflect on all there is to be thankful for: a community committed to Catholic education, ongoing parish support, generous, involved parents, a dedicated staff, and amazing students.

A big thank you for the coordinated efforts of *all staff* and especially the Christmas Concert committee: Mrs. Van Dale,

Madame Marasco, Mrs. Probetts, and Mrs. Plewes for facilitating a wonderful concert, "**A Star in the Window**". As a staff, we also appreciate the involvement of all grade 7 and 8 students who will demonstrate leadership skills by being involved in the behind-the-scenes preparation of the concert. Please plan to attend our Christmas concert on Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. Parents and extended family

...Danielle Kolton

members who are unable to attend the concert are invited to join us for the Dress Rehearsal on Wednesday, December 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations to both our girls and boys developmental and competitive **volleyball teams** for a fantastic season. We were proud of their hard work and representation of St. Ignatius

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The Principal Says...(continued)

...Danielle Kolton

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School. A sincere thank you to the coaches: Mrs. Van Dale, Mrs. Friesen, Lauren Gawletz, Hana McVicar, Andrew Dreger, Kahlil Diaz-Hammond, and Kris Aguiar for the extra time and dedicated effort to support extra-curricular

endeavors at St. Ignatius school. In closing, I pray that the promise, the hope, and the peace of Christ's love fill your heart, enrich your relationships, and be with you this Christmas season and throughout the coming year!



Phys-Ed Update

...Cheryl Van Dale

We have been so fortunate to have had several outdoor gym classes in November. Kindergarten through grade three students have been working hard on their throwing, catching and ball bouncing (dribbling skills). Grades four through eight students are into our unit on basketball, learning the basic skills and rules.

Volleyball season has concluded, and we are very proud of the skill development and sportsmanship of all three teams. Thank you to Lauren Gawletz, who was assisted by Andrew Dreger, Hana McVicar for the developmental girls team; thank you to Bonita Friesen who coached the girls competitive team; and thank you to my coaching assistants Kris Aguiar and Kahlil Diaz Hammond for their assistance with the boys developmental team. Thank you to all teacher supervisors who

attended games and practices. A volleyball wind-up will occur in January 2010; more information to follow.

Basketball season is quickly approaching. After a series of three skill assessment workshops, we will have two competitive boys teams, one developmental girls team, and one competitive girls team entering into the MCSAA league. Practice and game schedules will be made available to students and on the school website as soon as I receive them. I would like to thank Jerome Cranston, Jim Signatovich and Keith Gillis for their assistance during the workshops. I look forward to the upcoming season, and I wish all the coaches and athletes a wonderful season.

Wishing you a safe, active, and blessed holiday season.

SISPAC

...St. Ignatius School Parent Advisory Council

Well, winter season is officially here. My Mom always told me that to keep warm, you should keep busy. When I look at what SISPAC has been up to for the last few months, it looks like everyone was very warm. In November, the annual Tri council dinner was hosted by SISPAC and was attended by the members

of Parish Council, Finance Council, the School Board, Fr. Gerry, Fr. Newman, and a number of SISPAC representatives. This annual dinner helps foster good relationships between the three Boards that are involved with the school.

Board News

Volunteer Opportunities:

St. Ignatius School Board of Directors has two portfolio vacancies for the upcoming 2010/11 school year: Treasurer and Personnel Chair. Please check the school website under Board of Directors for more information about these portfolios.

Some training as a regular member is required prior to starting in these positions in September. If you have some background in these areas and are interested, please contact Linda McVicar, Chair, at 287-8790 for more information.

We wish everyone a Very Joyous Christmas. May the light of the Lord shine on you and your families. May Peace fill your hearts and homes in 2010!

Lee Mencik
Communications

For information about your school board and its members, please refer to your Family Handbook and www.stignatius.mb.ca

Contact us at:
board@stignatius.mb.ca

On November 26, SISPAC gathered to create a PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope), with a fellow parishioner and facilitator, Nerina Robson. This process helped us to further enhance our identity, focus on mandate and goals and guide our work with vision and purpose. SISPAC

is planning on displaying and communicating the PATH developments soon. Please watch for communication to come.

The Family Hamper evening on December 1st, was organized by Grade 8 families. St. Ignatius school community again showed their Christmas spirit and amazing generosity in the collecting and distributing of 5 beautiful hampers that will help less fortunate families within our city. As well huge donations to support the work of Siloam Mission and Rossbrook House were collected. Thank you also to faculty, friends and families for your generous contributions, the team of volunteers who packed and delivered the hampers, and the craft makers for entertaining our youngest helpers.

In the next little while keep your eyes out for the new school directories which will be distributed soon and have a look at the SISPAC executive and portfolio members which will be updated on the school website.

You may also spot some of our new school logo clothing, if you missed ordering, there will be a chance to do so again in the spring.

Just a quick reminder to mark your calendar, book a sitter, and look forward to a night of fun and fellowship with the "Annual Dinner in the Hall" to be held on Saturday, January 30, 2010.

[Christmas](#) is a time of [preparation](#) and of celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is also a time to reflect on our blessings, so I end this winter update with a blessing that Fr. Gerry wrote and read as everyone gathered to create hampers.

Hamper Night Blessing

Blessed are you, God of all creation: you have gathered us in this parish community to love and praise you in word and works.

We thank you for guiding and forming us into people whose hearts are on fire with your love.

The gifts we make for needy families in our city are a sign for others of your living presence with us, and that you love all people without favoritism.

Bless these Christmas hampers that we fill with love, and bless the many families who will receive them. Touch every heart with peace and joy this Christmas.

Bless our children, our youth, our parents, Our teachers, our board members and all those who promote peace and justice in our parish, our school, and in the wider community.

May our young people grow in wisdom, age, and grace before you and all your people. May our school always be the home of truth, of faith and good toward all.

We pray to our loving God through the intercession of St. Ignatius of Loyola and of blessed Marie Rose Durocher, in the Holy Spirit, and of the name of Jesus our Lord.

Amen

On behalf of SISPAC, may you feel the warmth of Jesus's light shine upon you and through you this Christmas Season.

Kristina Ostermann

Grade Four Bible Celebration



...Carol Noonan

On November 24, before parents, grandparents and friends, the grade four students were presented with their own Bibles.

There was excitement in the room as the celebration opened with a prayer, and the students sang and signed the song "Seek Lord the Kingdom of Heaven". After a first reading, each student shared a Bible verse that they had chosen and spent time memorizing. Students did a fantastic job with their verses and continued to awe the audience when they sang the

"New Testament Song". This song clearly taught them the names of the Books in the New Testament.

We thank Father Gerry for his words of wisdom during the celebration. He spoke of the Bible being a wonderful source of God's word, and he reminded students to make sure to read and take very special care of this book. The students' smiles lit up the room as they each came forward to receive their very own "Break Through" Bible which is a kid-friendly version with simpler words

and colourful pictures that go along with the parables. The celebration ended with the students further entertaining the crowd with their favourite song "Sunday's School", also referred to as "Sunday's Cool". The actions were, indeed, very cool!

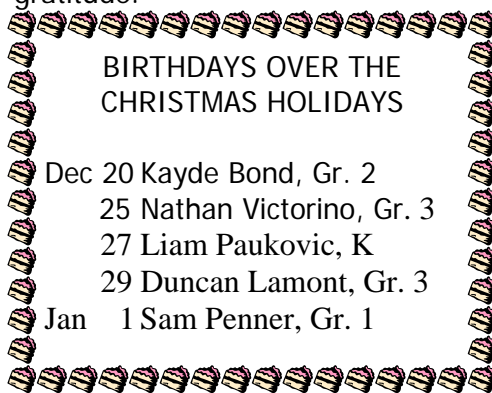
Thank you to the grade four students for such an outstanding job and to all of the parents and friends for joining us on this very special day.

Advent dawns and with this special time of year, we wait patiently and prepare for the birth of Jesus. Part of our yearly preparation as a school is the presentation of a Christmas concert to the community.

This year our concert is called "A Star in the Window" and it focuses on Jesus' presence in the world as embodied in the kindness and generosity of others. The audience learns that by giving of oneself, miracles can

happen. The story is set in a novelty shop in the 1960's and is supported by a wonderful cast of actors who make the miracle of Jesus among us and within us come to life. To showcase this, different classes present a variety of songs. And through the combined efforts of both the grade seven and the grade eight classes, our behind the scenes scurrying of lights, sound, camera and action will highlight our songbirds and actors. We anticipate a concert to remember

and know God has been part of our efforts as we offer our preparations to Him and our community in praise and gratitude.



BIRTHDAYS OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

- Dec 20 Kayde Bond, Gr. 2
- 25 Nathan Victorino, Gr. 3
- 27 Liam Paukovic, K
- 29 Duncan Lamont, Gr. 3
- Jan 1 Sam Penner, Gr. 1

Thank You For Giving HOPE

When I was a young child, in a family of eight, I lived in and out of foster and group homes for six years. When I was able to live with my mom, we relied on generous people, like the St. Ignatius School community, for food hampers and gifts at Christmas. I remember when I was 10 years old with literally no Christmas tree, presents or food, coming home from school and finding the table loaded with food from our Catholic Church community and a present with my name on it. It was a round, pink, zippered Barbie bag with clothes and a doll. Although I had not previously played with dolls (had to grow out of them as we could not afford them), I remember absolutely loving this one; not because it was Barbie, but because some unknown person had lovingly picked it out especially for me HOPING I would love it. The fact that someone, somewhere was thinking of me and my circumstance and cared enough to give us so much amazed me and gave me HOPE that someone really did care! This feeling of HOPE gave me confidence and strength to keep going, even when I felt so abandoned by the world.

I can mark my journey through life by individuals like this who took the time to make a difference: like my grade six math teacher, who encouraged me and convinced me that I was good at math. He had weekly math contests that I won with stuffed animals as prizes, and although we were poor, by the end of grade six I had a room full of toys from winning, and I discovered I *was* good at math; or, the family in grade seven who bought me a pair of shoes because they noticed that underneath my wide pants I had none; or, the grade 8 teacher who took our group out for ribeye steaks because he knew it would never be on our menu and who paid me a dollar a day for marking tests to ensure I had pocket change to go to a movie like the other kids. Each person along the way encouraged me and gave me HOPE that someone cared. I tell my kids that when we get to heaven and sit on our Father's knee, He is going to review our life with us. The moments we think were great, such as our graduation, or a job promotion, He is going to look at and say "Yes, that was good, but look at this moment here"...and it will be something small, forgotten like buying a gift for an unknown child... that changed their life and gave them HOPE for a better tomorrow and allowed success and change to happen!

On behalf of Siloam Mission, I would like to thank the staff, students and parents of St. Ignatius School for their Hamper Evening donations of hygiene products, scarves, mitts, hats, socks, underwear and spices; thank you for providing HOPE to those less fortunate: *wow*; it filled my husband's van to the rafters with over 10 full boxes! This treasure, along with all of the overflowing hampers, will provide HOPE to those in need and let them know that someone really does care and that there IS HOPE for them to change and have a better tomorrow!

Sincerely,
Judy Richichi (parent)
Accountant, Siloam Mission

To the Teachers, Schoolchildren, Parents and Families of St. Ignatius School:
On the Occasion of My Final Vows
In Thanksgiving for Your Support of My Vocation

Dear St. Ignatius School Family,

Thank you! These two words express what I am feeling today. I feel grateful, extremely grateful, to God. For you.

Teachers, your presence and support of my vocation over the two years you have known me has been God's grace for me, through you.

Schoolchildren, your prayers and wishes for me, in the basket before me as I made my vows, I will always treasure in my heart.

Parents and Families, your love and care for your children and our community have made God present in so many ways.

This past weekend, as I made my final vows, I was particularly moved by the Jesuit promise of special care for the instruction of children. I am grateful for you all.

Thank you, Mrs. Kolton, for your wonderful presence and superb leadership of our School.

With Best Love, Fr. Gerry McDougall, S.J.