



May 2010

St. Ignatius School *Ignition*

The Principal Says ...

... Danielle Kolton

“It takes a lifetime to figure out what God is all about ... and ... Jesus is the ‘instruction book’ from God”: These were some of the powerful messages from Archbishop James Weisgerber in his inspiring homily to a church filled with **Confirmation** candidates and their sponsors, teachers, and parents on Thursday, May 13. The gift of the Holy Spirit is to open the hearts of those who listen to hear the words of Jesus and to share in his victories by reaching out to others. In our efforts to guide our students to “be a gift to the world in God’s name”, we took great pride in being witnesses to their Confirmation. Thank you to Mrs. Barnson, Fr. Gerry, parents, and sponsors for supporting our students on this faith-deepening journey to say “yes” to God and make a commitment to live their faith.

Our grades 5 and 6 students also had the privilege of hearing powerful messages about being a part of the Catholic community when they attended the **Catholic Schools Spirit Day** on May 14 with speaker Jesse Manibusan. Being Catholic is an “inside job”, he says, whereby through prayer, reflection, and contemplation, we become a part of something greater than we could imagine. In solidarity, in unity, in oneness, and in community

we are one Church, one body of Christ. At the St. Boniface Cathedral, Jesse enthusiastically encouraged students to “Show up! Step up! Step out! Serve! and Celebrate in our role as disciples in service to one another!” The energy was palpable, and students enjoyed a wonderful day blessed with sunny skies and warm weather in the company of grades 5 and 6 students from the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, Archdiocese of St. Boniface, and Archeparchy of Winnipeg.

When we reach out to others, we meet Jesus; in knowing Him, we also discover who we are in the world that is God’s kingdom. Since Lent, our students have been hard at work raising money in kid-directed ways for a school in **Lesotho, Africa**, which is run by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, the founding order that also founded our school. Inspired by Keith & Renee and the work that they do with Free the Children, our students have demonstrated leadership in simple and ordinary ways to impact change. Learning about schools in Lesotho and the challenges they face was eye-opening for our students who are realizing the responsibility that comes with the privileged life we lead in Canada. As teachers, we believe that education is so much more than

mathematics and English; rather, it is about learning to be compassionate and contributing people in a complicated world. Here is a snapshot of the projects they planned and executed all by themselves for St. Angela Home: Kindergarten - did extra chores to raise funds; Grade 1 - hosted a classroom community tea where they made dainty sandwiches and cookies at school and served iced tea to their family and friends; Grade 2 - brought in their used books and toys to sell to each other; Grade 3 - made “be the change” buttons and sold them for \$1 each at our Festival of Lifelong Learning where we featured PhillyD as the speaker for parents and students; Grade 4 – made and sold cookies at our Festival of Lifelong Learning. Students with musical gifts played music that evening; Grade 5 - conducted a penny drive and wrapped all the pennies; Grade 6 - held a lemonade stand in each classroom; they titled their project, “Lemonade for Lesotho”; and Grade 7 and 8 - brought items from home to assemble silent auction baskets, advertised, and sold tickets. Staff have also added to the pot by having casual Fridays The total amount raised FOR students, BY students was \$2000 - WOW! WOW! WOW!



Grade 8 Farewell and Year-end Mass – Tuesday, June 29 @ 9:00 a.m.

The Principal Says (continued) ...

Congratulations to our girls, boys, and mixed **badminton teams** for a fantastic season. We are proud of their hard work and representation of St. Ignatius School. Our boy's badminton team came in first place – please see the PE department classroom link for a picture of our champions with their banner – BRAVO! A sincere thank you to the coach, Mrs. Van Dale, who was also the badminton convener for the MCSAA. We also appreciate our athletic teacher supervisors for the extra time and dedicated effort to support extra-curricular endeavors at St. Ignatius School. Our Track and Field club is in full swing, and students are busy training for the

upcoming MCSAA Track Meets on June 7 (grades 7 & 8) and June 14 (grades 4-6).

On Friday, May 28, we will take time to honor and bless the many **volunteers** who have shared their time, talents, and energy at St. Ignatius School this year. Volunteers are a valued and integral part of our school community, and we rely on their contributions to augment and enrich our programs. Thank you; you are much appreciated! Please take a moment to admire our classroom bulletin boards which are dedicated to our volunteers.

Board of Directors ...

The St. Ignatius School Board of Directors has been actively working on our goals that we established earlier in this school year. The goals are as follows:

1. Employee retention, enhancement and recruitment;
2. Develop a Capital Needs plan;
3. Investigate and pursue revenue opportunities;
4. Enrolment and promotions;
5. Enhance communication with other Parish committees and enhance our visible presence within the Church itself.

The details of the goals will be presented on our website this fall. Currently separate committees having been working on them and will

SISPAC ...

It is hard not to bask in the sunshine that God has blessed us with and believe it is not summer. Please mark your calendar for noon on Friday, June 11. This is when SISPAC will be holding their annual AGM. Lunch and babysitting will be provided. **Please RSVP to Carolyn Eva Meadows @ cmeadows@mts.net or 453-3333** SISPAC is also looking for volunteers

for the “Welcome Back” Coffee in September. If you are interested in participating for one of the three mornings, please contact Kim at klavilla@mts.net. As usual there are more people to thank on behalf of SISPAC. The plant fundraiser was a tremendous success, so thank you to all those volunteers who helped add some colour and yummy

... Danielle Kolton

I am biased, for sure, but I believe that this is the best edition of the *Ignition* for this year. We have worked hard since September to fine-tune our contributions and share meaningful stories from a variety of community members. You may have noticed that throughout this year, each issue has also included different teacher contributions. I am filled with tremendous pride as I read this, and I hope you enjoy it, too.

Thank you for the privilege of educating your children,



... Lee Mencik

that this event benefits our school, as it is the school's biggest fundraiser. You don't need to know how to play golf as there are opportunities such as “play the best ball on your team” to give you a little momentum. If you'd rather not play golf, that's all right, too. Just come for the dinner. Why not support the school by sponsoring a hole? There are many ways to help make this event the best ever. All we need is You! For more information, visit our website at www.stignatius.mb.ca

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

... Kristina Ostermann

fruits/vegetables to our homes! As I write this, people are also working hard on preparing the Spring BBQ, an event that brings us all together to enjoy the St. Ignatius community spirit. SISPAC is truly appreciative of the time you give to make this all possible. Now I am off to enjoy the sun, I hope everyone is enjoying this bright light shining on us as well.

A Reflection on Mother Marie-Rose ...

... Maria Marasco

This year, the staff at St. Ignatius School has been studying the life and works of our Blessed Mother Marie-Rose during our Faith Development days which take place once a month. This month, in particular, the staff had the opportunity to learn more about Mother Marie-Rose, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in Canada. My colleagues and I were split into three groups: a discussion group in which the members contemplated a series of questions on Mother Marie-Rose, a group who read and talked about letters that Mother Marie-Rose wrote during her time as Mother Superior; and finally my group, the book club, who read a short biography entitled "*In the Footsteps of Mother Marie Rose*" written by Yolande Laberge, SNJM.

The book is a compilation of short reflections, conveying specific messages about Mother Marie-Rose. Its purpose is to invite us to reflect on various aspects of Mother Marie-Rose and to be inspired by the values she so treasured. It has four main sections with the first highlighting who she was, where she came from and details about her family life. The remaining three sections refer to her as a "witness" to faith, to apostolic commitment and finally to a Eucharistic life. Each section explains events that shaped and formed Mother Marie-Rose into becoming the person

that she was. Although it is written in short, brief excerpts, it does a wonderful job to enhance the attributes and servant-leadership qualities that she possessed.

After reading a few articles, I could not put it down. I became more and more intrigued about how strong a young woman she was, especially to have endured being the youngest of seven brothers and sisters, being motherless at the age of 18, and being sick for most of her short life. Not to mention having to deal with the politics and hardships within a male dominated culture in a rural community of Quebec during the mid 19th century. Regardless of these obstacles, and there were many, she remained stoic and faithful to her commitment to the poor, the ostracized and the uneducated members of her community. Through devotion of prayer and meditation she found strength within her frail being to continue to serve in the name of Jesus and Mary. People, even children, would refer to her as a "saint" (pp. 60, 90, 110).

In conclusion, the book offers many messages that I have reflected upon and will continue to do so, and there is one in particular that stands out the most for me. It is very profound, yet simple to follow if I take the time to truly embrace it. I believe that it is a gift we all carry but most of us put aside because of time constraints we

allow ourselves to be bound to and the busy lifestyles we choose to live. Mother Marie-Rose learned early on in life that by her "active charity" she was an instrument of the love of God (p.74). The fire that burned within her was evident in her relationships with others, specifically the abandoned and the poor, but amongst her colleagues and students as well. All her actions were "service for love" the centre of her whole Christian life (p.74). This message is one I take to heart and with the help of prayer to Mother Marie-Rose I know that I, too, can put the "fire" within me into action.

Prayer to Mother Marie-Rose

O Marie-Rose, whom God called early in life to care for the very poor: Open wide our arms to the call of the little ones. May we follow you as we give of ourselves to the fullest!

O Marie-Rose, whom God moved to educate youth: Open wide our hearts to their cries of distress. May we follow you as bearers of faith and kindness!

O Marie-Rose, whom God gave to us to love as a mother: Hear our prayers that spring from our sufferings. May we follow you to our God of the Eucharist!

O Marie-Rose, true woman of the Church: Help us renew our commitment to the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. May we follow you to the very summit of charity.

First Communion ...

... Carol Cenerini

Sunday, May 2 was a special day for the students of the grade two class at St. Ignatius. Along with their families and friends, they assembled for the 9:30 a.m. mass to celebrate their First Communion. The students looked great in their Sunday best. As always, Father Gerry did a wonderful job of officiating and made sure that the children were the focus of

this special mass. All the children did a great job, whether they were reading, taking care of the offerings or singing their beautiful song at the end of the ceremony. Many thanks go to the numerous people who had a hand in making the day such a success: Ms. Greco, Mrs. Richmond, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Kolton, Mrs. Aguiar, Chantale Cenerini, Mrs. Hochkievich and a

special thank you to Mrs. Lampman. Also, I would like to thank the grade 3 parent committee who did an amazing job of decorating and organizing the reception after the mass. You all had a hand in making this a special day for all the children as they reached this important milestone in their spiritual journey.

First Reconciliation ...

... Kelly Sine

God our Father: you have loved us first. You gave us all in your Son, Jesus. I am sorry for having offended you. May your Holy Spirit help me to become better. Amen.

On Thursday, April 29, the children of grade three asked God for forgiveness as they received the Sacrament of Reconciliation; the celebration was beautiful. Scripture passages were thoughtfully read, and a skit that reminded everyone watching that God forgives us when we have the courage to ask, was performed with confidence and understanding. The Examination of Conscience was especially meaningful because it was inspired by the grade three students' questions and wonderings. But what brought a tear to the eyes of each witness in the church

was the song, *Three Beautiful Words*. The true meaning of 'I forgive you' and 'I love you' was brought to life as seven actors acted out meaningful, real life situations demonstrating forgiveness.

After receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation and solemnly saying their penance, the students were celebrated in the Parish Hall at a lovely reception hosted by the grade five parents.

The next morning, children were welcomed into their classroom by a surprise of balloons and a congratulatory poster created by Mrs. Kirby's kindergarten class and Mrs. Bedard. Later in the morning, the kindergarten class visited the grade three students with a treat of Tim Bits.

Early the next week, Mrs. Ouimet's grade six class shared handmade cards and conversations about the meaning of Reconciliation in their lives and the memories they treasure of their special day.

Thank you to all of the families who prayed for the grade three class as they prepared for and celebrated their First Reconciliation. Thank you also to Fr. Gerry, Fr. Joe and Fr. Jack who helped prepare the grade three class for the sacrament and guided them through the sacrament for the first time. Our school is a place of faith formation whereby sacramental preparation occurs and is celebrated by all community members; thank you to everyone who celebrated with us!

Three Beautiful Words ...

... Christine Gillis

*".....it's true!
I forgive you.
These are three beautiful words."*

The above passage is from the song "Three Beautiful Words". I have heard this song sung by my children, each during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I tear up every time I witness this song sung. During this year's service, even Fr. Gerry commented that he should have "put Kleenex boxes in the pews" because the song is that moving.

I am awed at how this sacrament seems so different from when I received it for the first time. I remember a fear so great my heart would pound, my throat tighten and my palms sweat. My brave boy fairly ran up the steps at his appointed time; no apparent fear or anxiety for him. After the service was over, and we made our way downstairs to the reception, he turned his joyful, bright little face to me and said, "Mum! I feel so RECONCILED!"

Admitting our faults and asking for forgiveness is a tremendously difficult act. So how was it my child was EXCITED to admit his wrongs and ask for forgiveness? I credit the instruction of his teachers and Fr. Gerry. These grade three students were not made to dwell on the "seriousness" of their transgressions or made to doubt whether or not they would be forgiven. There was no negative stigma attached to this sacrament. They were taught a great lesson: God always forgives. They were taught that they were created in the image of God, a loving and forgiving Father who always welcomes them back, regardless of their sins. They came to understand, identify, and accept their humanness: all people make mistakes. That it's OK to mess up, and GOOD to ask for forgiveness. They were taught never to doubt that forgiveness would always be theirs for the asking.

What a humbling lesson for us adults: We mess up. We are human. We need to approach this Sacrament just as these little ones did. I don't think God

wants His people to be afraid, shamed, humiliated, or embarrassed during Reconciliation. If we are sorry, His forgiveness is there for us. All God wants is to be in communion with us and for us to be in communion with each other.

When I was little, we called the sacrament "Confession". I have not been to "Confession" in years, and I'm beginning to think now that it's that word, Confession, which may have been holding me back. To confess TO something is far different than to be reconciled WITH someone. To confess is a singular act; to be reconciled takes participation of the two parties concerned: God, and me. God asks that we also give this gift to each other: ask those we have hurt for forgiveness, and work towards a reconciliation. How wonderful if we were all able to so joyfully declare, "I feel so reconciled!" I believe we would all walk a little taller. God guarantees reconciliation. Our job is but to ask.

Class Memories of Confirmation ...

... Pat Barnson

Our grade 8 students celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, May 13 and were asked to share some of their reflections about the occasion:

Confirmation was a very important occasion for us all. I was a bit nervous but then I got comfortable and everything was awesome. The ceremony was lovely and we are very blessed and thankful to have Archbishop Weisgerber there for the service. He gave us a great message. He helped us relate our everyday lives to the sacrament of confirmation.

Archbishop Weisgerber had an inspirational message. He reminded us that God communicates to the world through us. We are his body on

earth. One of the things this means to me is that we are all, fundamentally, good people.

Archbishop Weisgerber explained how God works through us, and what we say or do can be a direct reflection of God's purpose. It got me thinking that I don't want to be a negative ambassador of God.

He also used a metaphor to explain to us the importance of community bonds. He said that we were all like cells, making up one body, and that cancer cells are simply cells in the body that haven't learned to work as a team with the others. It helped me to realize that to make our communities run smoothly, we all have to work together.

Finally, the archbishop used humor to point out that Confirmation is not a final examination. It's not the end, but only one milestone in our continuing spiritual journey. In fact, this journey continues all through our life.

The reception afterward was also put together very well. Thank you to everyone that helped to make our Confirmation so special. The room downstairs was beautiful. The dessert was delicious and the punch was the best punch I have ever tasted! A special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for the lovely gift. It was very thoughtful of them. It was fun to take pictures with our friends, family, teachers, and Archbishop Weisgerber. We appreciated every single part of it.



After 20 years at
St. Ignatius School,
Mrs. Watson is
RETIRING!
We will miss you,
Mrs. Watson!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ALL PARENTS WELCOME:

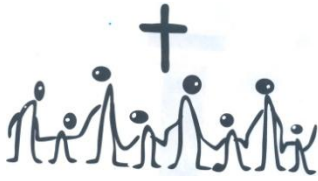
Wednesday, June 23 @ 9:15 a.m.

K-8 Year-end Celebration Assembly



Sharing Gifts ...

... Eileen Eliasson



SHARING GIFTS (S.G.) is our intergenerational project connecting senior members of our parish with the children of St. Ignatius School.

In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti, Amen. Some of us remember saying the sign of the cross in Latin; our S.G. friends certainly do. They have lived the Catholic experience since before the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. They have seen the many changes that came about as the Church renewed herself. They witnessed such changes as the evolution from Spiritus Sancti, to Holy Ghost, to Holy Spirit, to the occasional 'Her'. It is this rich experience of being Catholic that we most recently wanted our S.G. friends to share with the students in grade one.

Each visit with our S.G. friends begins with a beverage and cookies in the

library. We were so pleased to have Father Gerry and Juan Truillo, a Jesuit novice passing through Winnipeg on his pilgrimage, join us for a while.

After refreshments, we went up to grade one where the recent history of the Church came to alive in our classroom. I used my highly developed eavesdropping skills to listen in on the conversations. The remembrances were rich with imagery. Kneeling at the communion rail with the white linen cloth where hands were hidden while tongues were out stretched to receive the host, was my favourite image. Children heard that the altar used to be up against the front wall, and the priest prayed with his back to the congregation. Some children held a beautiful silver rosary that was blessed by Pope John Paul II. One look around the room confirmed, for me, that the children were engaged and enjoying the visit a great deal.

During the past year, our S.G. friends and our students have explored the history of many aspects of everyday life. The benefits of studying history

are many: to learn, to understand, to know, and then to grow. But, before any of that can happen, students must learn to love history. The amusing stories and the warm, gentle ways of our S. G. friends will be lasting memories for our students. I believe these memories will instill a love of learning, especially a love of history in our children.

At the end of the first year of our *SHARING GIFTS* project we have satisfied an academic purpose, linked two generations of our parish community by forming meaningful relationships, and had fun along the way. We are looking forward to our yearend get-together in June and to coming together again next year. We are hoping to expand the project to include more classes, and we invite all members of our school community to encourage senior friends and members of their families to join our project next fall. Please pass along the attached form to anyone who might be interested in our project.



1.	Name
2.	Full mailing address
3.	Telephone number
4.	Email address if you prefer to correspond by email
	Please drop this form off at the school, or mail it to: St. Ignatius School 239 Harrow Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 2Y3

Reflections of Grade 6 Camp ...

... Grade 6 Students

During May 19-21, the grade six class went to Camp Arnes for another year of fun-filled adventure. Here are a few of our highlights:

On the morning of May 19, we were on the bus heading for an awesome experience. As soon as we got there, we were already busy doing activities like trail ride, fire and bannock, archery, high ropes, instincts for survival, zip line, and wall climbing. Although all of these activities were really fun, my favorite was zip line. When you get to the top you get really scared, but then when you jump off it is so much fun.

One of my favorite things at camp was fire and bannock! We built a fire, lit it, and then put bannock on sticks and roasted it over our fires. So there we were sitting on logs, eating and sipping tea. It was a true camp moment.

On the zip line, I felt that I was superman! When I was off the zip line, I said in my mind, "That was awesome --- I want to go again!"

Zip line was my favorite activity! I had so much fun. To be honest with you, I'm really afraid of heights! Terrified! I was so scared, but I pushed myself to try new things and try to get over my fear. I took a deep breath, closed my eyes and pushed myself off the deck. I screamed! I can't believe I went on the zip line. It was so high up. I knew it was worth it. All I did when I was on the zip line was smile and scream. The zip line was our last activity and it was something to remember!

This year at camp was so fun! My favorite activity was the high ropes. The high ropes were obstacle courses up high. I also liked playing golf during free time. Our cabin was super big. It had a loft and bunk beds. I also liked going to the petting zoo. There were goats, lamas, sheep and donkeys. I liked camp a lot. It was so fun! Thanks St. Ignatius School.

Camp Arnes was a wonderful experience. I will never forget. My favorite activity at Camp Arnes was horseback riding. My horse was named Jessie. She is the fastest horse there. She didn't like to be controlled and she kept trying to get ahead of everyone! After we had a quick walk with our horses, the instructors wanted us to have a race with them. We raced our horses and Jessie and I won. I definitely think that horseback riding was one of my highlights at Camp Arnes.

The funniest game at Camp Arnes was Instincts for Survival. We were in the forest for about an hour playing this game. It was really fun, but very tiring. There was a lot of running and you had to keep an eye out for predators and food and water. It was fun to play and fun to learn. I will always remember the game and Camp Arnes.

The very best part of going to Camp Arnes was the zip lining. When you are lining up to go on it, you might not want to. But you have to try it! All you have to do is climb up a ladder, then up staples attached to a pole. The hardest part is when you're just about to climb onto the platform. That's when the pole starts to shake like mad. I got scared at that part! Once you get up it isn't too hard. Once you're tied in, you just push off! The thrill is something you won't forget. If you're scared of heights, the zip line is a good way to conquer that fear.

A memory I have is when we were playing Instincts for Survival. Haley and I were porcupines, and we lost each other. "Haley!" "Sam!" We were calling for a few minutes, and then I was right behind her. She kept on calling. I said "Haley" and she ran into the woods, so I just ran behind her and caught up to her.

Camp Arnes was a great camp experience. The weather there was so hot! The temperature the first day was

29 degrees Celsius. The second day it was 25 degrees Celsius, and our last day a low 17 degrees Celsius. It was a good thing we had hats and sunscreen.

Instincts for Survival is the best game ever! You're either Carnivore, Omnivore, or Herbivore. There were different items you had to collect. Water, meat and vegetation. If you are a Carnivore you must collect 4 meat and 4 water. If you are an Omnivore, you must collect 2 meat, 2 vegetable and 4 water. When you are a Carnivore or an Omnivore, you can hunt Herbivores by tagging them. When you tag them they must hand you a life. The best part was that this was played in the forest.

At the marshmallow roast, I was really happy because normally I set my marshmallows on fire and burn them, but this time my marshmallows came out golden brown. Along with the marshmallows, we had hot chocolate, chocolate chip cookies and fruit. Then came the fun part! One of our chaperones, Mr. Frankemolle, brought his guitar to camp and the marshmallow roast turned into a sing along! We sang twinkle twinkle little star, happy birthday, and I met a bear. Then we made up made up songs about St. Ignatius School to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?"

One of the best things at Camp Arnes was the high ropes! There are different obstacles that you can do. The different ones are The Catwalk, which is just a pole that you walk along. The tires, which you walk along spinning tires and to get to the next set of tires you have to swing on a rope. The wire, which is a thin wire that you walk across, but if you start to fall you can grab onto one of the ropes to help you. The bridge which is really unstable and sways side to side. A lot of these things don't sound that hard, but you are way up in the air and trying to do these things!