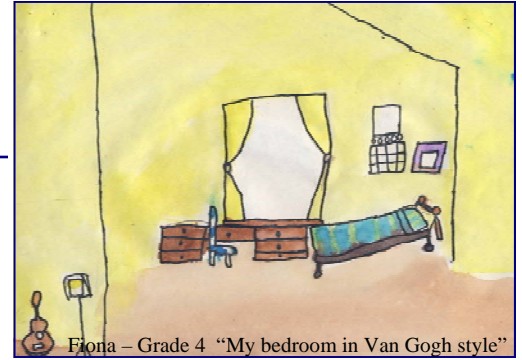




November 2009

Ignition



Fiona – Grade 4 “My bedroom in Van Gogh style”

Present, If not Correct

I have come to the conclusion that going to church with young children is not a religious experience. Between the yawning, fidgeting, poking, fighting, arguing, and pouting, it's difficult to center oneself and be open to the Word of God. My favourite moment is when they whine, “Is it over YET??”, and we haven't even sung the Gloria. I remember my mother telling me about family friends that tried to say the rosary at home with their children each evening. It went something like this: “Hail Mary, full of Grace..... (Michael, sit up straight)....the Lord is with Thee..... (Henry, take your finger out of your nose)....blessed art Thou amongst women.... (John, stop hitting your sister).....And blessed is the fruit of thy..... (No, Ellen, you may NOT wear your

rosary as a necklace!!).”

You get the idea.

I often times find myself in Mass praying for patience, but “God, please, deliver it RIGHT NOW!!!!” I'm sometimes embarrassed, sometimes infuriated by their behaviour. I'm sure the Almighty enjoys my discomfort. The irony of how my request for patience must sound is not wasted on me. But I truly believe that He recognises that it is difficult at this point in my life to give Him my undivided attention during Mass. I hope He has a sense of humour about Pokemon cards and Lego hidden in pockets and pulled out during the Homily, even though I strictly banned them from appearing at church. Some days, we are “present, if not correct”.

It helps to remember that Jesus started out as a small boy, just like my three sons. He was taken to the temple just as we take our children to Mass. I'm quite sure He tried Mary's patience from time to time just as my three boys try mine. I know at some point they will grow and be able to still themselves in Mass, and hopefully come away enriched by the experience. For now, it's really all about the doughnuts and juice in the basement; their “reward” for good behaviour. My hope is that someday the reward will be more enriching; even spiritual. Until that day, I'll keep praying for patience.

And frisk them before we leave the house. Christine Gillis

The Principal says...

September and October have passed in a flurry of back-to-school routines, and we are now coasting into yet another great school year.

Volleyball is in full swing, and the basketball season will be upon us

in no time. I realize that I have already sent out a request for coaches, and we are pleased to have had three parents indicate an interest; however, I appeal once again to you, our parent community, for additional people to come forward. The reason for

...Danielle Kolton

this request is because we are interested in creating a sustainable group of parent coaches. With an eye towards future teams, we would like to have coaches in the “wings”. Because our teams are comprised

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of grades 6, 7, and 8 students, and typically coached by the parents of those students, we often only benefit from their expertise for one or two years.

Our vision is to have parents of students in younger grades mentored by parent coaches in older grades so that there is a continuous loop of up-and-coming coaches. Where are our staff in this picture, you ask? The athletic department is overseen by our physical education teacher, Mrs. Van Dale. She coaches in almost every sport season of the year and facilitates the scheduling and details of all extra-curricular athletics. With a background including multisport competitive A & B theory and Level I NCCA certification, she works with each of the teams to ensure that the skill development and values espoused by our school are consistent with the Manitoba Catholic Schools Athletic Association. Depending on the

interest and skill level of other teachers, we may have one or two who coach (in addition to a minimum of three other extra-curricular assignments). We also have five teachers who act as athletic supervisors, assigned to attend games and practices when a team is coached by a volunteer. Additionally, we believe in the value of having high school students work in an assistant coaching capacity which provides a wonderful leadership opportunity for them as role models to our students; each year, we have at least two former students return to serve our community in this capacity. In this way, a comprehensive athletics program is a sustainable community undertaking.

In short, **we need you**, not just when your children participate on these teams, but before then as a way of contributing to the larger community and in preparation to pass the torch. Please contact Mrs. Van Dale or me to discuss

any questions you have about becoming involved in this vision.

This edition of the *Ignition* is full of wonderful descriptions of other community undertakings; in addition to the regular contributors, check out Mrs. Eliasson's article on our intergenerational project with St. Ignatius Parish called, SHARING GIFTS and Mme Marasco's update from the French department.

Just a reminder that our **Remembrance Day Service** will be held in the school gym at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 10. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Thank you for the privilege of educating your children;



SISPAC...

...St. Ignatius School Parent Advisory Council

What an exciting time of year. The season is changing and we are getting ready to see the snow fly and the ground get covered in a fluffy white blanket of snow. While the snow blanket won't keep us toasty warm, a new St. Ignatius sweater might. School logo clothing is going on sale November 5 & 6th. What an amazing way to show our school pride and foster a sense of community in our schools and parish. I invite all of the

parents to browse the selection so beautifully displayed in the foyer.

I also invite all the parents to attend the monthly SISPAC Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. As the new the new Communication Director for SISPAC I have found the community spirit and the overall kindness to be overwhelming. SISPAC and their goals just further affirms my decision in

putting my children in St. Ignatius. This is a great way to give back, foster new and old friendships, and give to the school that is giving our children so much. Thank-you to all the staff and volunteers who make this such a great place to be as an adult and a child. I look forward to letting you all know about the coming SISPAC events.

Kristina Ostermann

Board News...

...St. Ignatius School Board of Directors Inc.

The Board of Directors would like to thank everyone for contributing to our coffee fundraiser this year. This is our first of two fundraising campaigns we facilitate on behalf of the school community. The fundraising campaigns assist in covering the parish deficit related to the costs of operating the school and the anticipated revenue from these campaigns are put into the school budget. The

board is also continuing their efforts in revising our initiatives and goals for this year.

We are very happy to announce that the new Work, Safety and Health policy has been completed and we thank those members who worked so diligently in developing and implementing this policy. The policy is a statement of our commitment to safety and health

for all within our school and property.

Lee Mencik Communications Chair

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

French News...

...Mme. Maria Marasco


Salut tout le monde!

The French language is once again coming alive at St. Ignatius School. This year will be filled with more exciting activities for students and parents. Grades 2-7 are working on the vocabulary to perform the AIM theatrical play entitled "Les Trois Petits Cochons" in late November. Parents please check the French Link on the school website for upcoming presentation dates. The kindergarten class is enjoying learning new songs and the alphabet. The grade one students are also continuing with the AIM program which we started last January. They are learning the "Poule Maboule" song and vocabulary for the play, "Chicken Little". The grade 8 students are busy learning frequently used verbs and expressions in order to effectively communicate verbally and in written format. We are blessed to have in our afternoon French classes Mr. Philippe Mostert-Bellemare. He has been working with small groups to improve reading and pronunciation in French. A big thank you to him from all of us!

As research shows, a second language must be lived in order for it to be learned (*Basic French Guidelines-A Handbook for School Divisions*). Unfortunately, the time in the classroom is so limited. Thus, I urge parent involvement in your child's journey towards acquiring French as their second language. Students will come home with songs to sing, scripts to memorize, journals to write so, why not ask them what they accomplished in French and ask them to show you what they know. This encouragement and support from home will go a long way. If you are interested, I have DVD's available for home use that explain the AIM Program and how it is being used in the classroom. Please feel welcome to drop by and take one home to view. You may also want to check out St. Boniface College which offers language programs for youth on Saturday mornings.

Merci for supporting Canada's second language!

A la prochaine,
Mme. Maria Marasco



St. Ignatius School Wants to Make a Difference!

The United Way offers alternatives for kids on the streets, it helps families gain the knowledge and tools they need to achieve financial independence, encouraging the growth of healthy neighbourhoods where people can lead full and happy lives.

St. Ignatius School is currently running a campaign to support the United Way of Winnipeg. You may have seen teachers dressed in their jeans, children in their pajamas, even teachers in curlers and housecoats—it is all in an effort to increase our donations to a very worthwhile cause.

Thank you for your part in making our campaign a success!

SHARING GIFTS - An Intergenerational Project...

...Eileen Eliasson

We are debuting a new project at our school this year--*SHARING GIFTS*! We are very excited about its many possibilities. *SHARING GIFTS* is an intergenerational project aimed at providing a way for older parishioners to pass down legacies and younger students to deepen their connection to our faith community. We believe that there will be numerous benefits to bringing the older and younger members of St. Ignatius Parish together.

The name *SHARING GIFTS* was inspired by thoughts of the gifts of the Holy Spirit; older adults sharing their gifts of *wisdom, knowledge* and *understanding*, and children sharing their gifts of *wonder* and *awe*.

SHARING GIFTS is loosely modeled on our school's Big Buddy/ Little Buddy tradition. Children in the primary grades will be organized into groups of two or three. Each group will buddy-up with an older adult. We'll plan three or four buddy visits during the school year. While spending time with one another, participants may engage in storytelling, reading, playing vintage games or doing crafts. As well, the small groups might decide on other suitable activities. We will design all activities to allow for time to build relationships.

SHARING GIFTS is a year-long project that will include a farewell event in May or June. Hopefully, when the year is over, the children

and their new adult friends will find their own way to stay connected to one another.

The parish bulletin on the weekend of October 24/25 included a letter inviting older parishioners (65+) to become involved in *SHARING GIFTS*. Sign-up forms were included with the letter. These letters and forms are also available at our school office. Please pick one up and pass it on to any older adult that you feel may be interested in and benefit from *SHARING GIFTS*.

We look forward to keeping you updated as this new project unfolds. Eileen Eliasson

Congratulations to Mr. Sweet for being recognized for his outstanding service to our community!!!



SAM KATZ
MAYOR • MAIRE

October 7, 2009

Mr. Bob Sweet
St. Ignatius School
239 Harrow Street
Winnipeg MB R3M 2Y3

Dear Mr. Sweet:

As the Mayor of Winnipeg, I would like to personally thank you for creating happiness and humour for others through costumes and a friendly smile.

I have always said that what makes Winnipeg truly great is the people and that is why I am proud to be Mayor of our City. When it comes to community spirit, our citizens are committed to excellence and demonstrating pride, class and passion.

On behalf of The City of Winnipeg, I thank you, and I wish you much success for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Katz
MAYOR