

St. Maurice School



ST. MAURICE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 5

January 2012



Principal's Message

A word or two from Mr. Caligiuri...

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas Season. Celebrating the birth of Jesus and the time spent with friends and family will certainly help to renew us and prepare us for the winter months that are to come.

Prior to the Christmas Break we held a collection drive for the Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre and I would like to report on the generosity of our students. Our drive to collect mitts, tuques, scarves and toiletry items was a success. We collected over 1500 toiletry and clothing items. The St. Maurice School Staff cooked approximately 200 litres of chilli that was served by staff members on Sunday, December 4th. The St. Vincent de Paul Charity donated money for the purchase of milk, fruit, and bread. As well, our Grades 7 to 12 students donated food items to put together about 15 Christmas Hampers that the Grade 11 and 12 students delivered the morning of December 22nd. Our students are immersed in a culture of giving and helping those in need. Thank you parents for your support!

We will soon commence our January Exam Period for the Grades 8 to 12 students. Your child should be preparing for the upcoming examinations. I encourage you to speak with your son or daughter and help him/her develop a realistic plan of study that will adequately prepare them to do their best. Your daughter's or son's instructors are always available to provide extra support. Encourage your child to take advantage of this offer.

Exams will be written between January 19th to January 26th for Grade 9 to Grade 12 students; and January 23rd to January 26th for the Grade 8 students. Your child will be provided with a report card and a Parent Reply form on February 3rd. Please review the report card, sign the Parent Reply form and have your child return it back on February 6th. It is important for us to know that you have reviewed your child's report card. Report Cards for Grades K-6 will be distributed at a later time on March 9th.

Our Basketball Teams have been practicing since late November and some have already played in tournaments to prepare for the 2012 basketball season. Good luck to all of our basketball players as you commence your regular season play. We have entered seven teams this year. Once again thank you to the coaches who make this possible.

Our School Debating Teams have enjoyed success in past debating events. The school debaters are busy preparing for upcoming tournaments. Good luck!

I wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year. See you all on January 9th, 2012.

God Bless.

Giuseppe Caligiuri
Principal

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St. Maurice School



Let Your Patriot Pride Show!

Patriot Pride Corner

St. Maurice School is pleased to continue our “Patriot Pride” Corner as a monthly, regular feature in the St. Maurice Newsletter that allows us to focus on the extraordinary achievements of our students: in the school, in the community, in the province and beyond!

If you know someone who you believe should be featured in our “Patriot Pride” Corner, please submit a nomination in one of the following two ways:

- a) Information forms for the “Patriot Pride Corner” may be picked up and submitted through the general office.
- b) Information regarding the student and his/her accomplishment(s) may be emailed to library@stmaurice.mb.ca. Please list the subject line as “Patriot Pride Nomination.” Please also be sure to include all pertinent information, including your contact information (name, phone number, email address, etc) in the event that any follow-up information is required.

Please note that St. Maurice School reserves the right to edit submissions for length and/or content, and shall determine the means and timing of recognition appropriate for each instance using any of the following: homeroom announcement, morning P.A. announcement, newsletter article, or other means as may be appropriate.

Important Dates— Gr. 7-12 Students & Parents

SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR GRADES 7 TO 12 STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

January 19-26 Grades 9-12 exams
January 23-26 Grade 8 exams

January 26-27 Grad photos taken (pre-booked appointment times)

February 3 Grades 7-12 Report Cards distributed at 3:30 pm

- Parents/Guardians are asked to sign and return the “Report Card Reply Slip”
- Please also complete the “Parent-Teacher Interview Request Form” should you wish to meet with any of your child’s teachers.

February 6 Grades 7-12 Report Card Reply Sheets due back

February 8 Grades 7-12 Parent-Teacher Interviews, 4:00-9:00 pm

February 9 Grades 7-12 Parent-Teacher Interviews, 1:00-6:00 pm

- Grades 7-12 students will be dismissed at 11:20 am on February 9th

Reminder to Please Dress Warmly

Winter Weather Has Arrived!

Parents of K-6 students, please ensure that your child comes prepared to be dressed for outdoors recess on all school days. Indoor recesses will only be held if it is -27 degrees Celsius (wind chill factor is considered) or colder.

Parents/
Guardians
are asked to
sign and
return the
“Report Card
Reply Slip”
by Feb. 6 for
Gr. 7-12
Students



ST. MAURICE SCHOOL - GRADES 8 TO 12
EXAMINATION SCHEDULE - JANUARY 2012 - FINAL COPY

DATE	TIME	EXAMINATIONS
Thursday, January 19	9:00 AM	English Language Arts 20F ELA: Comprehensive Focus 40S English Literature and Composition 42S - AP
	12:30 PM	Mathematics 10F ELA: Comprehensive Focus 30S ELA: Literary Focus 30S
Friday, January 20	9:00 AM	Science 10F History: Canadian 30S
	12:30 PM	Science 20F Essential Mathematics 40S Pre-Calculus Mathematics 40S
Monday, January 23	9:00 AM	Science 8 Chemistry 40S Economics 40S
	12:30 PM	English Language Arts 10F Chemistry 30S Law 40S
Tuesday, January 24	9:00 AM	English Language Arts 8 Essential Mathematics 30S Pre-Calculus Mathematics 30S
	12:30 PM	Geographic Issues of the 21 st Century 20F (Geography 20F) ELA: Technical Communication 40S ELA: Literary Focus 40S
Wednesday, January 25	9:00 AM	Mathematics 8 Introduction to Applied and Pre-Calculus Mathematics 20S
	12:30 PM	Canada in the Contemporary World 10F (Social Studies 10F) Physics 30S Physics 40S
Thursday, January 26	9:00 AM	Social Studies 8 Essential Mathematics 20S Computer Science 42S (A) - AP
	12:30 PM	Biology 30S Biology 40S

Grade 8 students will have their French oral exam at a scheduled appointment time during the June exam period.

BE SURE TO CAREFULLY REREAD AND FOLLOW
ALL EXAM REGULATIONS PUBLISHED IN YOUR AGENDA.
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR EXAMS!

St. Maurice School

Exam Study Skill Tips

*Make use of these study and exam writing suggestions to decrease your stress and increase your success!
Not all of these hints may work for every individual student, but all of these suggestions are worth a try!*

ENVIRONMENT

- Select one location for study at home and one at school. A room with a cooler temperature will help keep you awake.
- Do not attempt to study the more difficult material on the bus or in the car - do not waste this time, but use it only for reviewing matter you have already memorized.
- Study where you will not be interrupted by others. Do not study with other people unless they are all serious about the studying. Do not take phone calls or spend time online.
- Study in a quiet area. Also avoid concentrating on household sounds you cannot avoid (wastes time and destroys your concentration). Studying with music playing may not be the best plan for most people - consider that you will not be able to have the same condition (of music playing) while you write your exam.
- Try to study only during daylight hours (afternoon, early evening).
- Sit up in a straight-back chair - this will keep your muscles tense and your mind alert.
- Have your notebook, textbook, calculator, etc. on your desk as you start a study session.
- Remove all unnecessary objects from your area of study (no fiddling).
- Be sure that your work area is well lit to prevent eyestrain. If applicable, wear your eyeglasses while you study and as you write the exam.

CONCENTRATION

- Relax for a short time after school before you start studying.
- Begin your study periods at the same time each evening (set up a routine). Start on time.
- Plan in advance: what you intend to study, how you intend to study it and how long it should take.
- Plan to take a break of 5 to 10 minutes (only) after each full hour of concentrated study. Stretch, rest your eyes, move around during breaks, but do not make long phone calls or get interested in a television program (which may last longer than your break).
- Try as hard as you can to become interested in the material as you study it. Not liking the subject does not mean that you do not need to do your best.
- Concentrate on only one subject at a time. Do not spend time and energy worrying about other remaining assignments or exams. However, be sure to organize your studying according to your exam schedule and the difficulty each subject presents to you.
- Concentrate as you study and you probably will not have to spend as much time studying.

HELP FROM YOUR TEACHERS

- Listen carefully to the exam outline and tips your teacher will share in the last classes before exams. Let's face it - your teachers just finished creating your exam paper; it's only human that the most likely topics they will review in class will be those that they just typed onto your exam!
- Take note of the permitted and/or needed equipment for each specific exam. Be sure to organize these materials well in advance and to bring them to your exam.
- Sign up early for extra help on the posted sign up sheet for each teacher. Study in advance of your appointment and prepare specific questions about the topics for which you need a final review with the teacher. Do not expect the teacher to even try to re-teach the entire course for you in a half-hour extra help session!

Exam Study Tips Continued....

GENERAL STUDY TECHNIQUES BEFORE A TEST OR EXAM

- **START EARLY - STUDY REGULARLY**
- Read one page of notes (or text) carefully and then study it. Place small scrap paper bookmarks or Post-It notes at each page or section where main ideas are presented, or at each page where there is a topic you do not yet know well enough. Do not move to the next page until you are confident that you know most of the material.
- Continue to study page by page until you reach the end of the notes for the exam. Do not forget to study worksheets, assignments, lab reports, projects, quizzes, tests, etc.
- Once you have studied your entire set of notes, go back to your first bookmark and re-study that topic. Remove the bookmark and proceed to your next bookmark only if you now know that topic. Leave a bookmark in place if you still not sure.
- Continue to study and remove bookmarks as you learn more. (Challenge yourself - Try to eliminate all bookmarks before the exam).
- When "finished", start over.
- Do not leave the "hardest" topics for last.
- Make condensed study notes for the most important topics (useful for "cramming").
- Write out a list of key terms and practice spelling out key words on paper.

MEMORIZING FACTUAL INFORMATION

- Spread out the time you spend memorizing. Your mind cannot absorb a great number of facts at once so take more short breaks - a 5 minute break for about every 20 minutes of memorizing.
- Recite aloud or write out a memorized concept to "cement" it into your memory.
- Test yourself by attempting to write out the memorized content (especially lists, definitions, etc).
- Be selective about what you choose to memorize fully. Use the exam outline as a guide. t
- Try to understand material before memorizing it.
- When memorizing long passages and poetry, try to learn blocks of material rather than individual lines.
- Memorize using key words, memory tricks (mnemonic devices), word associations, grouping ideas, etc.
- Review often. Have a classmate or parent quiz you.

PLANNING FOR ESSAY QUESTIONS

- Listen for clues from the teacher during review classes.
- Design your own valid essay questions and fully prepare written-out answers for them.
- Discuss ideas with classmates and try to recall important class discussions. Also try to elaborate on class notes taken during those discussions.
- Reread sections of important texts and novel passages.

Exam Study Tips Continued....

TAKING AN EXAM

- Follow your regular routine and get a regular night's sleep before an exam. Start your studying early to allow for this.
- Quickly skim the whole exam before starting - this gets your brain working subconsciously on questions which you will address later on during the exam.
- Once the exam time starts, make quick notes on scrap paper (key terms, equations, etc). Do not spend / waste much time doing this.
- Budget the time given for the exam. Plan to leave adequate time for longer answers and for rereading. Check the clock occasionally and don't panic if you think you are running out of time.
- If you get nervous during the exam, take a short break and relax. Say a prayer. Close your eyes for a minute (but don't lose your focus).
- Read and follow directions carefully. Look for key words such as explain, contrast, list, prove, evaluate, etc.
- Look through the exam itself to check the spelling of subject-based terms if you are unsure.
- Skip questions that you cannot answer immediately and move on. Circle the numbers of skipped questions and do not forget to attempt these questions later.
- When writing essay answers, start with a brief outline on scrap paper. Pay special attention to neatness, organization and structure. Be sure to stay on topic and to provide a short but effective introduction and conclusion to each answer. Leave space after each essay answer, in case you later remember another point you would like to add.
- If given a choice of essay topics, choose quickly and begin with the topic you know the most about.
- Attempt all questions. Finish longer answers in point form if you are running out of time. Provide your best guess at any multiple choice or matching questions you left until last (unless there is a penalty for wrong answers).
- Reread and proofread the entire exam - check spellings, the communication of your ideas, the adherence to directions, etc.

BEST WISHES FOR YOUR EXAM PREPARATION AND STUDY!



Lord, it seems as though our lives are one test after another, weighing us in somebody's balance. Save us from taking the coming exams too seriously or too lightly, but grant that we may reflect the best of the work we've done and the teaching we've received; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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We are on the Web!
www.stmaurice.mb.ca

**Please help us to advertise our
Public Open House:
Thursday, February 16th
at 7:00 pm**

From the PE Department...

January brings another busy season in the gym! Basketball games begin as soon as school is back from holidays for our high school students. High School games are at 6:00pm or 7:45pm, come on out to cheer on our teams! We are competing at the Junior Varsity Level (both boys and girls) and Varsity Boys. Good luck with your seasons.

Indoor track practices have begun with Mr. Schwegel. Every Wednesday at 7:30am in the gym you can get a workout to benefit any sport you are playing. The track team will begin the indoor competition season this month as well.

We will be taking the grade 5 and 6 students skating again this year in February. If you have any old skates at home that you'd like to donate, please drop them off at the general office or the Phys Ed office.

The Phys Ed Department is looking for old skates and curling brooms. If you would be willing to donate any of these items please bring them to the general office or the Phys Ed office. Thanks!



St. Maurice School Library

St. Maurice School is dedicated to promoting literacy. To that end we have been building up our library and encouraging reading at all levels. We support the idea that every child should be a reader.

Ways to Become a Great Reader #3: Books Have No Annoying Commercials

I hope everyone has a great Christmas holiday full of friends and family, snow angels, sugar cookies and hot chocolate (and perhaps even a new book in their stocking!) I always enjoy having two weeks off to get caught up on the mountain of novels tittering precariously on my nightstand!

Our second Scholastic Book Fair this year will coincide with February's I Love to Read month.

FEBRUARY 21ST-24TH, 2012

More details will follow your child home this month.



A reminder that the library is always in need of volunteers! We are currently looking for several parents who can volunteer a morning or an afternoon during our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair, which will run February 17 (set up) and February 21-24, 2011. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Ms. Macdonald at 452-2873 or email library@stmaurice.mb.ca