



THROUGH FAITH AND LEARNING

BLUE & WHITE

SUMMER 2017

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Principal's Message by Sue Moench, Class of '72

Each summer is a chance to look at what we have accomplished as we prepare for the new school year. This year we celebrated the 127th Anniversary of Mount Saint Agnes, honored many of our notable alumni and witnessed 27 new graduates successfully complete their senior year as they take their next steps along life's path. This newsletter highlights many of our achievements and I hope you enjoy reading about them.

At MSA, we have a spirit of gratitude and make a habit of recognizing our many blessings. As the only Catholic school in Bermuda, we are grateful for the contributions made by the Diocese to our school and were blessed to be a part of the 50th Anniversary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda. It is with great joy that we congratulate Fr. Paul Voisin on his new appointment as Superior General of the Congregation of the Resurrection however, this is mixed with sadness as we wished him farewell this summer before he relocates to Rome. We will miss his Thursday morning classroom visits as well as his presence on the Board, Academic Committee, and Enrollment Committee.

I would also like to thank our outgoing Board Chairman, William C. DeSilva, Jr., for his years of service leading the management of our school and for his continued support in the years to come. Please join me in welcoming Mr. R. Paul Fortuna into the role. Our Board of Governors work tirelessly behind the scenes and we appreciate all that they do for our school.



Chairman's Report

by William C. DeSilva, Jr. FCPA, FCMA, Class of '79

Our 2016/17 school calendar has been filled with many events which showcase the wonderful achievements and talents of our students, inspired by the Faculty and Administration whom we entrust them to daily. If you haven't stopped by MSA recently, I would encourage you to arrange a visit so that you can feel the excitement and energy which runs endlessly throughout our school.

It is likewise wonderful to see many of our students live their faith outside of the walls of MSA; whether through participation regularly at Mass as altar servers, liturgical ministers, gift bearers, and assisting with the Loaves & Fishes program, or through their caring and thoughtful behavior and manners.

MSA leads and guides each student to the knowledge and maturity required to assume a position of Christian Catholic leadership by bearing witness through example to the message of Jesus, teaching the Doctrine of Roman Catholic faith, through providing opportunities for faith experiences and community service, and promoting the richness, depth, and goodness of Catholic moral traditions and values. It is important in our school life to join together in celebration of our students, families, parishes, community, faculty and volunteers, Island nation, and vocations; to celebrate our many past successes, and focus and dedicate time and effort to creating new ones.

I will continue to keep the entire MSA family in my prayers as I hope you will.

National Honors Society

Our National Honor Society merges leadership and service with academics. This school year saw our National Honor Society membership bloom with nine new students inducted into the MSA Elizabeth Seton Chapter of the National Honor Society at our 35th Annual ceremony on May 26th. We are exceptionally proud of the now 21 member strong NHS at MSA. These students pledge to maintain their high scholastic standing while endeavoring to intelligently, courageously, and compassionately lead and engage in service of others.



The newest members include: Caroline Amaral, Michelle Araujo, Miranda Araujo, Jehkio Bean-Lightbourne, Hannah Blee, Jessica Frias, Colin McCue, Julia Pimentel and Conor Sinclair who were inducted with the help of current members: Tahnaesha Astwood, Kristen Bean, Matthew Brady, Simon Cabral, Vanessa Cardoza, Sabrina Dasilva, Selena Dasilva, Alexa DeSilva, Rodrigo Jara-Lira, Stephanie Medeiros, Emily Sinclair and NHS Advisor Ms. Aaryn Cimino. It is our hope that you, our extended MSA family, will help spread the word about MSA's academic success as well as the role our school plays in helping our faith community build a strong foundation for life.

It was a "Royal" Birthday!

We were honored to be visited by HRH Prince Edward The Earl of Wessex on the occasion of our 127th birthday. Scheduled as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations for the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Bermuda, the Earl met with current D of E students, alumni who achieved the Gold Award and presented Mrs. Charlene White with a Long Service Award for her 10 years of service to the program as an Award Leader and Assessor.



Catholic Education: A Foundation for Life

Choosing a Catholic education is a decision that will last a lifetime. Our students are immersed in a system of education that is rooted in the teachings of Christ, and they receive a superior academic experience that develops the whole child in a safe, caring and supportive learning environment. MSA provides students with a values-based education; a Catholic education is focused on the whole child in mind, body, and soul. This environment

encourages lifelong learning and prepares students for high school

and life beyond.

We celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW) annually at the end of January. Mr. William DeSilva, Jr., Chairman of the MSA Board of Governors, spoke a few words at Mass that was part of our celebrations this year. He shared his educational journey, both as a student and as a parent, saying that “the foundational education which [his] family learned at MSA provided the confidence to pursue tertiary education and professional qualifications thereafter. Our parents selected MSA for my brother, sisters and me because, as Catholics, it offered us a first-class academic education coupled with continuous Roman Catholic faith formation.”

Mr. DeSilva credits the formal Roman Catholic faith education at MSA for providing him and his siblings with “a strong belief in Christian values, reasons to celebrate those values

regularly within our Roman Catholic faith, and respect for those who have different beliefs.” In September 1996, Mr. DeSilva’s educational journey at MSA began anew in the role of a parent and Mr. DeSilva expressed his gratitude for all that his alma mater has brought to his family. “MSA has offered us an enriched and fulfilling life, which we hope we have been able to and will continue to share with others.”

At MSA, we work to have our students live a faith-filled life and treat each other according to the teachings of the Gospel. Respect is a key value – we respect our faith and what our school represents in our community. More importantly, we respect ourselves and each other. Accepting each other no matter what our differences, gives the MSA community a reputation for tolerance and understanding for all. We believe our focus on high standards, strong motivation and effective discipline in a caring atmosphere, emphasizes excellence and high-quality student performance.

Bishop Wesley Spiewak, CR continues to encourage

our young people to take bigger roles in Liturgical Ministries. As a result, three students in Grade 12 were made Eucharistic Ministers for school masses this year enabling them to minister



to their peers at all our Eucharistic celebrations. As positive role models of Christian Leadership, graduates Nicole Anderson, Michelle Araujo and Simon Cabral are actively involved in their Church communities. Additionally, MSA has many middle school and high school students who regularly serve during our school Masses as Mass Servers and Song Leaders. These students wear pins as part of their school uniform, highlighting the importance of their spiritual leadership.

Our thanks to all who have supported our young people in their spiritual development and Catholic faith as we have many young people who achieved milestones in their faith formation this year. Please congratulate all the 2017 Confirmandi when you see them as well as our Grade 2 students who received their First Holy

Communion. As Catholics, we know that the Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith: it is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Pope

Francis has called it the “Sacrament of Love”. Mrs. Marina Resendes wishes that her students “always feel the love and presence of the Lord each time they receive Eucharist.”

“The Eucharist is at the heart of ‘Christian initiation’, together with Baptism and Confirmation, and it constitutes the source of the Church’s life itself. From this Sacrament of love, in fact, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness.” Pope Francis



YEAR END AWARDS



Our Graduating Class of 2017 have successfully completed the prescribed courses and have all been awarded Alberta High School Diplomas. At the Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, June 29, the following students graduated from MSA:

Nicole Imani Anderson – recipient of a Certificate of Excellence in Social Studies 30-2

Michelle Fatima Araujo – recipient of a Certificate of Excellence in Chemistry 30

Tahnaesha Anastacia Astwood – recipient of a certificate in Physical Education 20, Psychology and the Outstanding Community Service Teddy Bear Award

James Sean Barber

Kristin Michelle Bean – recipient of a Certificate for Art, 10, 20 & 30

Andrew Steven Benevides

Matthew Robert Pontes Brady – Valedictorian, recipient of the General Excellence Award and Certificates in English Language Arts 30-1, Math 31, Religion 35, Biology 30, and Social Studies 30-1

Nathan Berry Bridges

Simon Nicholas Cabral – recipient of a Certificate of Excellence in Communications Technology 30

Vanessa Rose Cardoza – Salutatorian, recipient of Certificates of Excellence in

Chemistry 30, Physics 30, Math 30-1

Catarina Maria Costa Correia

Marcus Isaiah Darrell

Felicia Ann de Sa – recipient of a Certificate for Math 30-2

Leticia Ferreira – recipient of Certificates in Physical Education 30 and Art 20

Lindsay Carole Flood

Andrew William Henderson

Makayla Katherine Holder – recipient of a Certificate of Excellence in English Language Arts 30-2

Dylan Michael Edward Holshouser

Kenryari Taja Alexis Ingham

Zachary Joseph Johnson – recipient of a Certificate in Math 30-3

Jaeden Robert Johnston

Stephanie Marie Medeiros

Edouard Pelletier

Liam James Perry

Andrew Michael Topliffe

Ryan Christopher Smith

Hunter Alexandria Squire

This September, many of our newest graduates will be furthering their studies at the following academic institutions: Bermuda College, Brescia University College at Western University, Georgian College, King's University College at

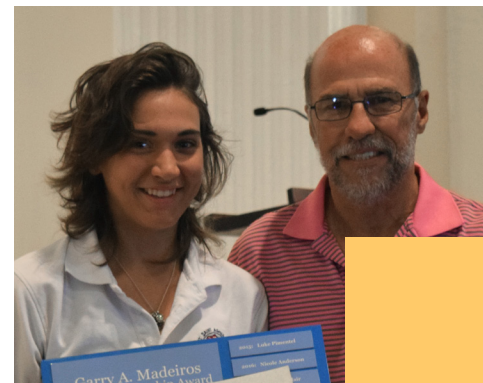
Western University, Laval University, Mount Allison University, Nottingham-Trent University, Oxford Brookes University, Rollins College, Seneca College, Sheridan College, Southwestern Illinois College, St. Francis Xavier University, St. Lawrence College, University of Prince Edward Island, and the University of Surrey.

Please join us in congratulating the class of 2017 on their outstanding performance. We are proud of their accomplishments and we look forward to hearing of their endeavors as they move into their chosen careers. May God be with them every step of the way along life's journey. Let us pray for their continued success and well-being as they take their next steps.

End of Year Awards – Grades 6-11

We would like to congratulate and recognize the following students for their outstanding talent, leadership, and commitment this school year.

The Garry A. Madeiros Student Leadership Award – Emily Sinclair



The Eileen Dunstan Open Heart Award – Cailey Longworth



General Excellence:

- Grade 6: Nicole Stovell
- Grade 7: Adriano Rymon-Lipinski
- Grade 8 General Excellence & Principal's Award – Joshua Blee
- Grade 9: Maya Leighton
- Grade 10: Caroline Amaral & Conor Sinclair
- Grade 11: Miranda Araujo

The Incentive Award

- Grade 7: Jennifer Monk
- Grade 10: Kennedy Cordeiro

The Joan McPhee / Susan McPhee-Rhind Award for Dedication – Caroline Amaral

The John DaCosta Award:

- Grade 7: Adriano Rymon-Lipinski
- Grade 10: Conor Sinclair

The Sandy Johnson Memorial Plaque for Improvement in Literacy – Perdita Thorpe

The Sandy Johnson Memorial Shield for Excellence in a Foreign Language:

- Spanish: Gabriel Burgess & Aliyah Every
- French: Maya Leighton

The Rose E. Soares / Joseph S. Marirea Scholarship – Hannah Blee

The Toby Colombe Scholarship – Megan Hands

Honors in Grades 9-11

Honors with Distinction – an average of 90 and above

- Gr. 9: Maya Leighton, Rachel DeCosta, Ashley Soares
- Gr. 10: Caroline Amaral, Conor Sinclair, Julia Pimentel, Jehkio Bean-Lightbourne
- Gr. 11: Miranda Araujo, Selena Dasilva, Sabrina Dasilva

Honors – an average of 80 and above

- Gr. 9: Andrew Vrieze, Gabriel Burgess, Aliya Every, Justin Stovell, Jalisa Caines, Liam McCue, Zoe DeSilva, Cailey Longworth, Jacob Pimentel

- Gr. 10: Jessica Frias, Erin Cardoso, Kayla Henderson
- Gr. 11: Hannah Blee, Emily Sinclair, Alexa DeSilva, Rodrigo Jara Lira, Kayla Mahoney, Kamryn Martins, Nola Mingleddorff, Chiara Pesci

Citizenship Award – for outstanding service, leadership, responsibility, character, and discipline

- Gr. 6: Charlie Davis, Perdita Thorpe
- Gr. 7: Liana Medeiros, Christopher Raymond
- Gr. 8: Sierra Rodrigues
- Gr. 9: Ashley Soares, Rachel DeCosta
- Gr. 10: Julia Pimentel, Jehkio Bean-Lightbourne
- Gr. 11: Hannah Blee, Emily Sinclair

Christian Witness Award – for the student who lives their faith through their words and deeds

- Gr. 6: Ian DeSilva, Beatriz Rodrigues Arruda
- Gr. 7: Brianna Smith, Sebastian Stirling, Lindsey Scarth
- Gr. 8: Ayanna Peniston
- Gr. 9: Ines Bolarinho, Kayla Raymond
- Gr. 10: Conor Sinclair, Cheyenne Christie
- Gr. 11: Emily Sinclair, Miranda Araujo

Leadership Award

- Gr. 9: Maya Leighton, Aaliyah Every
- Gr. 10: Julia Pimentel, Caroline Amaral
- Gr. 11: Rodrigo Jara Lira, Hannah Blee

School Spirit Award

- Gr. 6: Elia Rocha, Analia Machado
- Gr. 7: Kyra Kucharik, Noah Ferreira
- Gr. 8: Kayla Caldwell
- Gr. 9: Cailey Longworth, Gabriel Burgess
- Gr. 10: Catia Pimentel, Tao Lambert
- Gr. 11: Rodrigo Jara Lira, Kamryn Martins

Dare to Care Award – voted by their peers, for the student or students who exhibit a caring attitude towards teachers and fellow students

- Gr. 6: Joshua Furtado, Caydence Grayston
- Gr. 7: Sebastian Stirling, Kayla Tavares
- Gr. 8: Natalie Young



PLANTING SEEDS OF KINDNESS

\$90,717.95
Donated This Year
 September 2016 -June 2017



Charitable acts and service are a big part of MSA's school year. High school students are required to fulfill service hours as part of their Religion courses. From September 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, students in grades 10 through 12 completed a total of 4,070 hours of community service. Grade 12 students alone completed a total of 1546.5 hours which equals approximately 57.28 hours per student, 17 hours over the requirement. In addition to the various food and non-perishable collections for Feed My Lambs, S.T.A.R., Eliza DoLittle Society, Loaves & Fishes; MSA faculty, staff, and students also donated over \$90,700 to local charities this year.

At Christmas time, Kindergarten students donated art and school supplies for school children in Haiti. Marianne Herbert and Lisa Richold of Feed My Lambs Ministry hand-carried Kindergarten students' posters to the school children and teachers in Haiti who were delighted to receive the supplies and messages. After their trip, Marianne and Lisa came back to visit Kindergarten with some very special messages. The teachers and children in Haiti sent wonderful photographs and drawings.

In March, 43 shavees raised an outstanding amount for the St. Baldrick's Foundation and Bermuda Cancer and Health's SunSmart Program through our St. Baldrick's

event. The total funds raised was \$74,800 but more importantly, the positive energy in the auditorium during our event was astounding!

With all these wonderful fundraisers, it seemed fitting that we chose to salute our school and the values that we hold dear by dedicating the MSA School Salute in May to 'planting seeds of kindness'. Student representatives waved to morning commuters along East Broadway and from our MSA campus that morning, and in the afternoon the entire school got involved in various projects aimed at spreading kindness in our community. Each elementary student made a Kindness Card for an elder, which were then delivered to various elder care facilities and Meals on Wheels clients; grade 4 students planted a garden in our main courtyard which our Eco Club will water and tend to; middle school students handed out MSA bookmarks to passersby, each bookmark contained a seeded paper cross to be planted with the hope of flower blooms; and high school students undertook efforts to clean up areas around our school with the assistance of KBB.

Our hope is that these "seeds of kindness" take root in our community as well as in the hearts of our students for many years to come.

Bermuda Cancer Health	\$590.00
Bermuda Cancer Health - Movember	\$100.00
Bermuda Diabetes Association	\$957.00
Bermuda Heart Association	\$626.50
Bermuda Legions	\$44.00
Bermuda Red Cross	\$616.00
Feed the Lambs	\$800.00
LCCA	\$678.00
PALS	\$726.00
Random Act of Kindness, Gr 5	\$249.45
Relay for life	\$8,260.00
SPCA	\$612.00
St. Baldricks	\$74,822.00
St. John's Ambulance	\$564.00
The Coalition for the Protection of Children	\$645.00
Toys for Tots	\$428.00



Work Experience Program

If you have seen MSA high school students working in the community during school hours, they are participating in our Work Experience Program where students complete work hours in line with their Four Year Education Plan for credits toward their high school diploma.

There are two main purposes for our students enrolling in the Work Experience Program

- To develop the skills, attitudes, and expectations to succeed in the workplace
- To explore career options and opportunities

This is a learning situation outside of the typical classroom experience. Students learn to be aware of the expectations in terms of dress code, behavior, and language; to follow instruction in a workplace environment; to follow safety procedures, and to become better at time management. Students are able to get first-hand work experience for school credit in order to assist them with their career planning.

Last summer, Dylan Holshouser assisted in building a house with a maintenance and construction firm; Jared Dunstan worked as a student counselor at summer camp; and Hunter Squire worked at the Royal Gazette. Students have the opportunity to work in various fields and whether it is learning to mix concrete, build drywall and paint or gaining a new appreciation for teachers, our students benefit from their experiences.

This year, Jaeden Johnston worked at Marine & Ports, rotating between the Pilot Boats and the Ferry Service. Part of his responsibilities included checking the boat's equipment and systems at the beginning of a shift to make

sure all was in working order. Typically, Jaeden worked as a deck hand or with the engineer in the engine room.

Jaeden has been a sea cadet for over 9 years. Currently a Petty Officer Cadet, he now ranks as one of the most senior, active cadets in Bermuda and the Northern Area UK Sea Cadets. Jaeden shared that one of his most memorable experiences as a sea cadet was being one of six cadets chosen to man a boat in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee flotilla in 2012. His Sea Cadet training helped Jaeden with his work experience as he already had a sound knowledge of the rules of the water and how to secure lines – this must have helped when he was tasked with steering the boats.

Jaeden has his sight set on the sky and plans on becoming an airline pilot. Saying his work experience and Sea Cadet training has helped steer his career path, Jaeden recommends joining Sea Cadets, "it is a lot of fun, you have the opportunity to travel and learn about boating."

We look forward to hearing more about his recent 10-day voyage on the Bark Europa as part of the Tall Ships Regatta.

We are always looking for more work opportunities for our students, if anyone is interested in potentially hiring a student intern and would like more information, please contact Mrs. Moench, Principal, at smoench@msa.bm.



A Focus on Career Development

Each year Ms. Bonnie Exell, MSA's Guidance Counsellor, organizes Career Day for our high school students and Take Our Kids to Work for Grade 9. The students in grade 9 attend work with their parents, while grades 10-12 select from a wide range of information sessions given by local representatives of their fields and career paths. These volunteers offer their time and expertise to help our students expand their knowledge base as they make academic decisions as part of our curriculum and work experience programs.

This year the list of presenters included many MSA alumni, many of whom participated in the roundtable discussions and information sessions.

We are grateful for the input and advice contributed by all participants. MSA is committed to enhancing the career development of our students and Career Day is an important part of this mandate. Contact Ms. Exell at bexell@msa.bm for more information and to volunteer.

Alumni Network

Our thanks to Dianna Doe for sending us a group photo of the seven members of the Class of 1960 who were able to meet in Atlanta for their 56th Reunion! They were joined by three spouses and, as Dianna says, everyone "had a great time renewing friendships and catching up on events" since their last gathering in 2010. They are planning another get together in 2018 and hope to make it to Bermuda.

We invite all alumni and MSA family members to join our MSA network by signing up at www.msacconnected.com. It is a great platform to reconnect with friends, plan your own upcoming events and even become a mentor for one of our existing students or recent graduates. We value each and every member of our MSA family, all alumni, parents, faculty, and staff are welcome to join. Many parts, one body – many gifts.

Staff Appreciation

The Board of Governors of Mount Saint Agnes Academy congratulates the Faculty and Staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to our school.



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