

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 4th	Return to school
January 21st	MSA School Spirit Annual Walk
January 30th - February 5th	National Catholic School Week
February 3rd	Virtual Information Session for all grades
February - March	Home & School's popcorn fundraiser
February 7th – 11th	Semester Break
March 3rd	MSA's Birthday
April 4th – 14th	Semester Break



P.O.Box HM 1004
Hamilton HM DX, Bermuda

Telephone: 441-292-4134 ext.1943
Fax: 441-295-7265

Email: advancement@msa.bm
www.msa.bm



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The Latest News and Information from Mount Saint Agnes Academy

BLUE & WHITE

Principal's Message

A year filled with creative ways to adapt to our new world norms.

Looking back on 2021, we have had a year filled with creative ways to adapt to our new world norms. Through it all, the MSA family has supported and encouraged one another. We are grateful for the wonderful people in our

lives: our students who show much respect and compassion to those around them; the staff who go above and beyond to support the students in our care; and our parents who are so generous with their encouragement and assistance.

In the "busy"ness of the holiday season, we invite you and your families to take some time to sit back and enjoy our beautiful Christmas Concert. The entire student body is involved in this wonderful story both in a fun, comical way, and more importantly in inviting to reflect on the birth of Jesus who is still the best gift that we have ever received.



Merry Christmas to you all. May this Christmas season bring you laughter and love. May 2022 bring joy, health and prosperity to all. And may it bring a return to the "old-norm."

LAPTOP PROGRAM




MSA is committed to aiding students and staff in creating a 21st Century learning environment. We recognize the importance and indeed, the pervasion of technology in our everyday lives.

The MSA 1 to 1 initiative aimed at students from grades 9 to 12 will allow students to transition seamlessly with their own laptop, between school and home.


Laptop distribution started on Thursday December 8th with grade 12. As of today, grades 10-12 have each received their DELL Latitude 5320 2 in 1 laptop. We plan to distribute grade 9 laptops this Friday, December 10. The remaining laptops will be given to teachers before the Christmas break.

Middle school students will receive a laptop next school year, aiming for September 2022. This initiative will give students more efficient access to Microsoft Office Suite apps and other online learning resources.



'Twas THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK

PREMIERING
THURSDAY
DECEMBER 16TH
VIRTUAL ACCESS DEC 16 - DEC 19
\$20 per household



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
SUZANNE DECOUTO 292-4134 EXT 1943
OR SDECOUTO@MSA.BM

Once you have paid for your link, sit back and enjoy the show in the privacy of your own home. Invite family, pop the popcorn and make it a fun evening. Your link will be valid until the 19th of December. So even if you cannot watch it on the night you can make it another night.



During the month of December our classroom doors looked so festive thanks to our annual Door Competition. Below are the list of winners:



- 1st place for Lower Elementary
Grade 1A Mrs Camara's class
- 1st place for Upper Elementary
Grade 5A Mrs. Cassidy's class
Grade 4A Mrs. Moulder's class
- 1st place for Middle School
Grade 6A Mrs. Rego's class
- 1st place for Freshmen/Sophomores
Grade 9B Mrs. D'Souza's class
- 1st place for Juniors/Seniors
Grade 12B Ms. MacNeil's class
- 1st place for Specialists
Art room Ms. Capelo's class
- 1st place for Offices
Advancement Office
Mrs. DeCouto's office

'TIS THE SEASON!



BAZAAR UPDATE

Once again, we could not have our annual Bazaar however, we did have the Raffle Drive with some awesome prizes.

Our sales goal this year was to sell \$125,000 and we surpassed this by selling \$144,890 worth of tickets.

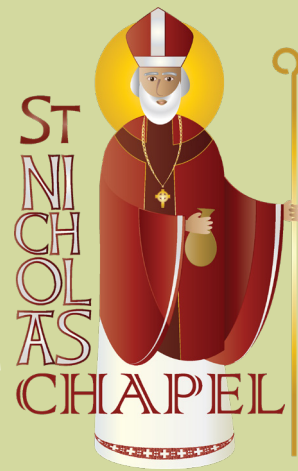
The top seller was Andrew Harris in Grade 3 sold 569 tickets.

The runners up were Kayson Sousa (K) selling 522 and then Jackson Cabral (ELP) selling 360.

We had 21 students who sold over 100 tickets.

Grade 3 were the Elementary winners in the class competition and Grade 6 won for Middle/High school.

Well done to all students and congratulations to our winners.

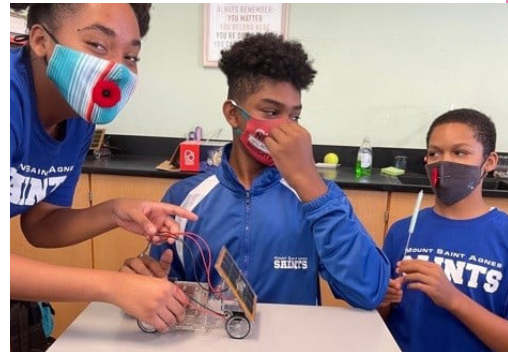


Our school chapel has been named!

On December 6, Bishop Wes blessed our newly named St. Nicholas Chapel. St Nicholas was the patron saint of children and December 6 is his feast day. All students were given a candy cane and facts were shared about the life of St. Nicholas.



STEAM DAY Renewable Energy



This year's STEAM DAY focused on the environment.

We had a special presentation from ELP to Grade 9s by BE Solar the presentations demonstrated how solar panels create clean renewable electricity. On display was a large 60 cell solar electric panel and a smaller demo solar electric panel which was used to help students understand how solar panels work and produce electricity. The smaller panel was connected to a water pump to illustrate design considerations for solar electric panels including the orientation, pitch (tilt) and shading and when positioned correctly, the pump would pump water and show the children how the solar panel was creating electricity in real time.

Other activities included:

- Creating solar powered ovens and cooking smores!
- Steam Escape Room
- Putting together a Water Heater Steam
- Solar powered cars



National Honor Society team up with Keep Bermuda Beautiful for a clean up!



To understand why Christmas is a time for giving, it's important to know the history and tradition behind it. One of the main reasons why Christmas is a time for giving is to remind us of the Christmas story. Of course, it was Jesus who received the gifts of Frankincense, Gold, and Myrrh. Each of these gifts also has its own meaning and then there is the main gift himself. Jesus is often considered to be a gift from God to the world.

This concept has evolved into the Christmas gift bringer. Kris Kringle, Santa Claus - he goes by various names around the world. In Italy, it's an old woman who delivers the gifts while Spain believes it's the Wise Men themselves. There's no right answer of course and they all bring gifts or treats.

Of course, Christmas giving also provides the chance to help those who are less fortunate than we are and need more support. MSA does not only give at Christmas time but all year round. So far this year we have donated a total of \$4584.00 to the following charities:

- Bermuda Cancer & Health
- Bermuda Diabetes Association
- Bermuda Legions/Remembrance Day
- Bermuda Sickle Cell Association
- Movember/Bermuda Cancer & Health
- PALS
- STAR (Supportive Therapy for Persons with Autism)
- Foster Parents Association of Bermuda (gifts were provided for foster children)

In giving we remember Jesus and how he helped those around him regardless of their wealth or status.



Students loading up the van for STARR Food Drive

Ocean Plastics Calendar

Once again, we were focusing on the environment when producing our Ocean Plastics Projects Calendar.

Families from the elementary classes went to visit local beaches to collect plastic waste. The plastic waste was then brought back to school and each class worked together to produce beautiful works of art which were used to create the calendar. The calendar costs \$15.00 and the funds raised will go towards our Solar Project.

MSA hopes to install 424 solar panel system on top of the roofs at MSA in 2022. The solar system will save over \$68,000 in electricity per year and stop over 8,000 barrels of oil from being burnt at BELCO. The system will also stop 4,364 metric tonnes of CO2 from entering the atmosphere.

Calendars can be purchased via our website www.msa.bm or if you wish to order directly with the school you can email sdecouto@msa.bm





Alyse Huynh

Ms. Alyse Huynh has come to us from Edmonton, Alberta. She will be teaching high school mathematics and science. Mr. Huynh has previously taught in Alberta, BC, China and Hong Kong. Ms. Huynh is committed to her students' success and finding ways for enrichment opportunities to challenge her students. She is a very nurturing teacher who makes sure no student feels lost. Ms. Huynh is an avid hiker and has coached basketball, badminton and rowing. She is a strong advocate for human rights and looks forward to opportunities to engage our students in social justice work. We welcome Ms. Huynh to the MSA family.

Ashley D'Souza

Ms. Ashley D'Souza will be teaching ELA and Social Studies to Grades 9 and 10. Ms. D'Souza is originally from Calgary, Alberta, however has previously taught in Macao and Qatar. She is a big fan of international teaching - particularly at



schools that offer the Alberta curriculum. She has had her eye on working at MSA since her undergrad, so when the position came up, she jumped at the opportunity to apply. A lot of her work focuses on social justice education, specifically allyship and identity formation. She hopes to integrate elements of activism within her teaching and to instill an open attitude for her students both in the classroom and in the community!

Christopher Ferguson

Mr. Christopher Ferguson, our high school Math and Physics teacher has a major in physics, theology and minor in mathematics, he feels there is no dualism between science and faith. Faith and reason are one! Mr. Ferguson is originally from Edmonton, Alberta but grew up in a small town called Bon Accord. He is married with 2 sons, Jack in Grade 8 and Gavin in Grade 5. Mr. Ferguson has taught for 16



years in Edmonton Catholic Schools. He is excited about coming to Bermuda and has been exploring our beaches, the ocean, and enjoying the warm weather. What he is most excited about is the "small town" vibe of island life that reminds him of growing up in rural Alberta. Mr. Ferguson loves fostering the passion for learning in his students. He wants all his students to start discovering what makes them come alive!

HELLO
I AM...
NEW

Claire Kelly

We welcome Claire Kelly back home to MSA. Ms. Kelly is one of the Grade 2 teachers. She has been living in Scotland for the last 12 years, teaching elementary classes for the last eight years. Her classes are high energy, even with singing and dancing. She is so glad to be back home at MSA having attended MSA from Kindergarten to Grade 12, although, it's a bit strange to be at the front of the classroom this time around! Her favorite part of this job is working with and getting to know her students. It's never the same day twice! We welcome Ms. Kelly back home to the MSA family



Cathrina Aguilar

Ms. Cathrina Aguilar is part Filipino and part Taiwanese, she has been living in Ontario, Canada. She spent the last 3 years teaching elementary students in Taiwan where she picked up Taiwanese one of the 4 languages she speaks. The other 3 are Mandarin, English and German. Currently Ms Aguilar teaches high school Math and yes Math is her favorite subject as she loves understanding the concept of a math problem. She jumped at the chance to come and teach in Bermuda as she grew up on a small island and loves a small community. Her parents and younger brother still live in Canada and cannot wait to visit her here in Bermuda.



RING MASS

Our annual Ring Ceremony was held on Monday, November 8th, presided by Bishop Wes. School rings for the seniors were blessed and distributed. Congratulations to the Class of 2022.

Mya Almeida
Caleb Cook
Kelsey DeSilva
Noah Ferreira
Ashlee Furtado
Kyle George
Patrick Johnson
Kailey Lewis
Kolby Martins
Milena Medeiros
Kristin Munt
Christopher Raymond
Taylor Rego
Adriano Rymon-Lipinski
Lindsey Scarth
Christina Stephens Wesser
Kayla Tavares
Savio Wilson

Logan Arruda
Owen Botelho
William Brackstone
Ryan Burgess
Rico Cabral
Megan Hands
Ashley Horseman
Gemma McPartlin
Liana de Medeiros
Ayva Mingledorff
Ajani Robinson
Brianna Smith
Tasia Smith
Yanik Smith
Naysaa Tucker
Sam Vrieze
Luke Wescom



Class of
2022
SENIOR

ALUMNI
IN THE NEWS

Choy Aming has been awarded the title of BUEI Environmental "Ocean Hero". He was recognized as an Ocean Innovator for developing projects with a positive impact on the health of Bermuda's ocean.



Congrats to Conor McLaughlin, Christopher Maypa and Melissa Rodrigues for being selected the Bermudian 2021 Rising Stars.

Well done to Kaelyn Kastle who has been listed on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for her work with social media group Collab Crib.



Our hats come off to Courtney Lopes for introducing "A dance class for anyone who thought they could not dance" to the In Motion School of Dance.



Way to go to Tiffany Boys, a 2003 graduate, on her promotion to Partner at Appleby.