

KIDS ON A REEF

Lexi Rego & Laurel Burgess



Field trips are a great way for our students to learn!;

In our current unit in Science 8, we have been exploring fresh and saltwater systems. We have investigated how water quality influences living things, and water affects landforms and climate.

One focus is about discovering how human activities and needs have changed our planet's water supplies and the environments that depend on them. This year we had an opportunity to take advantage of a two-day field trip offered by the Bermuda Aquarium Museum & Zoo (BAMZ) called Kids on the Reef. During this field trip students had classroom sessions in the morning about freediving, fish identification, coral reefs and ocean conservation as well as stretches and breathing exercises to prepare the mind and the body. Then they spent the afternoon in the water around Trunk Island to get comfortable and acquainted with the underwater world and their gear. On the second day, they used their new-

ly-learned skills to attempt a free dive of approximately 20 ft 8 miles off the shores of Bermuda. Students got to swim around a shipwreck and explore a beautiful reef. Field trips are a great way for our students to learn the information and hands-on experience enhances what they learn in the classroom.

WHAT'S COMING UP:

- 01.25.20 Home & School "FryDays" Jump Event
- 01.31.20 Catholic School Week Open House
- 01.31.20 5k Walk/Run for your House
- 02.01.20 Home & School Quiz Night
- 02.22.20 Champagne and Denim Gala
- 03.03.20 130th Birthday Mass



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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

p2 Music Program;
Ring Ceremony
p5 STEAM Day;
Photo and Mural
Competitions

p3 MSACConnect; NHS;
Late Nite Catechism
p4 Stevens Family; Seniors Helping Seniors;
Bazaar News
p6 MSACConnect; NHS;
Late Nite Catechism
p7 Prayer Services

MSA BLUE & WHITE

The Latest News and Information from Mount Saint Agnes Academy

Principal's Message

In November, our school and community were saddened with the passing of our Board of Governor's Chair, Mr. Paul Fortuna.



We have had a busy start to our 2019-20 school year. We extend a warm "MSA family welcome" to new students and staff who have joined us this year. Twenty students joined the Early Learning Program (a full class) and 22 students joined grade 6—both are our intake years. We welcomed six new faculty and staff: Suzanne DeCouto (Class of 1984) as Director of Advancement; Holly Archeval, Music and Drama; Kristi Foggo, Middle School Math; Sam Glazebrook, PE; Martin Pastor, Music; and Sandra Whalley, Spanish and World Language Exposure.

As the school progresses with its succession plan in preparation for Mrs. Sue Moench's retirement in June, we welcomed Mr. Christopher Tannock as the newest member of the Administration Team. Most recently Mr. Tannock was MSA's high school Social Studies teacher. He joined the MSA family six years ago after teaching at The Berkeley Institute for eight years. Mr. Tannock graduated from MSA in 1999 and then attended Hampton University where he received his BA in History and Masters in Teaching.

He is married to Danielle (MSA class of 2001) and is the father of Josiah, grade 6 and Mathias who is in P3 at Port Royal Primary School.

In November, our school and community were saddened with the passing of our Board of Governor's Chair, Mr. Paul Fortuna. Paul was a committed MSA parent who became actively involved in the school when his daughter Sophia joined Kindergarten. Paul is survived by his wife Anna and is father to Claudia, grade 11, Sophia who attends the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax and his mother, Mrs. Maria Odilia Fortuna. Paul was a hardworking, committed and generous person. He gave so much of his time to our school through the committees and projects he championed. While he did not attend MSA as a student he always said that "he married into the MSA family". MSA is fortunate to have had such a devoted person give of his time and energy as a valued member of our team. A scholarship fund has been set up in Paul's name. If you wish to contribute to the fund, you can deposit your donation

in care of the MSA Foundation at either BNTB: 20-006-060-556420-200 or HSBC: 010-726784-011.

As we move into the Christmas season and MSA prepares for its annual Christmas concert, we would like to thank the MSA community for your love, support and kindness during the past year. We have a committed group of parents and volunteers who are always available to support our events and adventures. I especially want to thank the dedicated group of parents who plan, organize, and carry-out the Bazaar. It is a huge undertaking that requires countless hours. If it wasn't for these committed parents and volunteers, we would never be able to host this event and consequently enjoy the facility upgrades and changes that are funded from the proceeds of the Bazaar.

May this Christmas fill your hearts with warmth, peace and joy! Have a Holy and Blessed Christmas and all the best for a prosperous New Year!

Sue Moench, Principal

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT SCHOOL!

An average day filled with technology, engineering, oceanography, meditation and obstacle course challenges. Don't you wish you were back in school?



Choral & Band Music: Mr. Martin Pastor & Mrs. Holly Archeval



Mr. Martin Pastor is our new music teacher establishing the choir program. He comes with 11 years of teaching experience both locally and internationally, children to university to adult experiences. This school year he will teach K-8 and hopes to incorporate the high school in the future. When students come to music they will experience the pedagogies of Dalcroze, Orff, and Kodaly. These approaches to teaching use singing, dancing, movement, and games to promote a student-centered, inquiry-based, creative and (of course!) FUN learning environment.

Mrs. Holly Archeval is our other new music teacher working with the band program for middle School. The band program for middle school is off to a great start! The 6th graders were very excited to start learning their new instrument. Over the past several weeks they have

learned how to assemble and disassemble their instruments properly and are now successfully playing a couple of notes. We will be hearing more from them over the school year. Seventh and eighth grade band are also busy adding new notes and skills to their playing and are working on new pieces for their ensemble. They realize that everything takes practice and love seeing the results from that practice. We look forward to hearing their hard work soon as well.



THE RING CEREMONY A MSA Tradition

The Senior Ring Ceremony took place on September 27th starting with a mass followed by a reception in St Theresa's Church Hall. All Seniors were happy to receive their ring with family members looking on. A tradition is to have as many people twist their ring (whilst still on the finger) all the way around for good luck. Congratulations to all Grade 12s and the next few months will be awesome.



PRAYER SERVICES

Prayer Service in Honor of St. Francis of Assisi by Annette Boyle

On October 4th, students from kindergarten to grade five attended a prayer service in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Father Joseph Morley was the officiating priest. There were also special guests at this service – two dogs named Sparkie (owned by Gabbie Barbosa) and Murphy (owned by Mrs. Moench). During the service Father Joe blessed both Sparkie and Murphy and the students' photos of their pets. These photos are displayed on a bulletin board outside the office. Mary Rose Mathias read the introduction to the prayer service. Savannah Martin read the life of St. Francis. Boris Dombre read the Old Testament selection. Hunter De Madeiros, Khloe Munt, and Jason Dixon-DaSilva lit candles to honor those animals that live on land, in the sea and in the air. A special candle was lit by Mrs. Boyle in memory of her dog Rambo and all other pets who have gone to heaven. The Prayers of the Faithful were read by Alexia



Medeiros and Carter Lamb. At the end of the service Dr. Madeiros from Ettrick Animal Hospital and Kate Martin from the SPCA spoke to the students about their work.

Saint Francis of Assisi was born in the small town of Assisi, Italy, in the year 1182. Assisi is a town ninety miles north of Rome. Like many early saints, he lived a very simple life of poverty, and in so doing, he gained a reputation of being the friend of animals. Saint Francis is often pictured amidst birds and animals in a time when animals were treated very cruelly. He understood that respect began with the lowliest of all God's creatures. The genuine holiness of Saint Francis was shown in the respect and great love he had for all these creatures created by God. Saint Francis is considered to be the first advocate for animals, a man before his time, about 700 years to be precise. He established the rule of St Francis, which exists today as the Order of St. Francis or the Franciscans. St. Francis died in 1226 at the age of 44.

We hope that this service encouraged the students to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi and inspired them to imitate his joyful love of God and all His Creation. A big thank you to all those who participated in this annual prayer service at MSA especially Mrs. Boyle, who has coordinated this prayer service since 2007.



REMEMBRANCE DAY



On Friday, November 8, students in grade 6 – 12 participated in the Annual Remembrance Day Service held in the school's auditorium. This year we were honored to have His Excellency the Governor, Mr. John Rankin in attendance for the service. The Most Reverend Bishop Wesley Spiewak led the service assisted by Mrs. Sue Moench, Principal. Students who are in the Bermuda Junior Regiment, T.S. Admiral Somers Sea Cadet Corp, and Scout Association of Bermuda wore their uniform as part of the ceremony. Mrs. Carol Everson representing the Bermuda Legion, spoke to the students about Bermuda's involvement in the Second World War. All students received a poppy courtesy of the Bermuda Legion.

EUCCHARIST YOUTH MINISTERS



From left to right Justin Stovell, Jacob Pimentel, Ines Bolharino, Dorian Frith (behind the girls) Mya Leighton, Kayla Raymond (seated)

These students are practicing Catholics and attend mass regularly as well participate in various activities and ministries within their parish church.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2020

Catholic Schools Week 2020 will be held this coming January from Sunday 26 January to Sunday 2 February.



For this year's Dollar's for Hours project, MSA partnered with The Eliza Dolittle Society (TEDS) to assist with tackling Bermuda's food insecurity problem. The project was completed in two phases. The first phase included getting to experience the operation side of TEDS. Over the October mid-term school break, 6 of our middle and high school students along with administrators, spent 2 days volunteering at TEDS food bank in Warwick. Our tasks included collecting, unloading and storing food donations, sorting and bagging fresh produce, and filling client orders. It was eye-opening to see clients lined up waiting to fill their orders before the doors even opened. While at first, the food bank supply looked plentiful, the shelves were quickly emptied within a few hours of serving the clients. The second phase of the project included the entire MSA student body. On Thursday, November 14th, MSA held a food drive to donate non-perishable good to the TEDS Food Bank. Students displayed great generosity by filling 10 large bins of goods.



School Funding and Planning Update:
Celebrating 130 years!



More details will be coming but if you are interested in reserving a table contact Suzanne on sdecouto@msa.bm

Champagne & DENIM

SAVE THE DATE
02.22.2020

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS



www.msacconnect.com

Check out our
Alumni website

Re-Connect

Find and re-engage with fellow MSA alumni

msacconnect.com

allows you to re-connect with old classmates and use the trusted MSA community to expand your professional network.

Connect Now!
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Give Back

Introduce, employ and offer to act as a mentor to our graduating students.

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COMING SOON: THE LATE NITE CATECHISM



The Late Nite Catechism came to us in 2015 and was a sold out performance but on by the MSA Alumni. This is a solo comedy play about a fictional Catholic nun, written by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan. The show itself is a form of participatory theatre where the actress playing the nun is the only person on stage, and members of the audience become members of the nun's school class. Put it in your calendar for MAY 8TH & 9TH, more details to follow.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS



We would like to acknowledge the new Officers of the National Honor Society for 2019/2020 school year:
President: Maya Leighton
Vice President: Jalisa Caines
Secretary: Rachel DeCosta
Treasurer: Justin Stovell
Historian: Claudia Fortuna
Other Members: Ashley Soares, Liam McCue, Drew Vrieze, Joshua Blee, Gabriel Burgess
Teacher and Co-ordinator: Aaryn Cimino

BAZAAR UPDATES

One of our most prominent traditions, the MSA Bazaar, was held on Friday, October 11th and Saturday, 12th. MSA Cruises the World saw stalls themed around cruise destinations.

This year the Bake Stall won for their Amsterdam canal scene and among the high school class stalls the Grade 12's Dunking Stall

won with their 'Cruising through the Artic' theme. There was popcorn, snow cones and the ever popular Malasadas. Kids had fun playing games in Kiddyland and sliding on the Super Slide. Bingo was a hit with Saturday's blackout prize being a Samsung 55" 4K Ultra HD Smart TV. Also, a hit were the Treasure Baskets which made an appearance again this year. The Plant Stall had new managers this year and they did a fantastic job with their selection of plants, painted rocks and fairy gardens.

Major Raffles was a huge success! The students exceeded their goal of raising \$125,000 in raffle sales. Grade 4 won for the Elementary class that sold the most raffle tickets and Grade 6 won in the Middle School/High School division. This year we were very lucky to have been able to offer as our main Major Raffle prize a KIA Niro Crossover (Hybrid). The winner was so excited that he came to MSA at 1am Sunday to see the car.

We would like to thank all of our contributing partners, donors and vendors for supporting us. Thank you to Donna Mingledorff for the graphics/artwork and Nelson Pimentel of Signworx for the banners. A big thank you to the stall managers and volunteers for their hard work. And lastly, a huge thank you to Tereza and Paul Rodrigues and Luis Martins and his Fast Forward team for everything they put into making the Bazaar a success!



STEVENS FAMILY: Part of MSA for 100 years

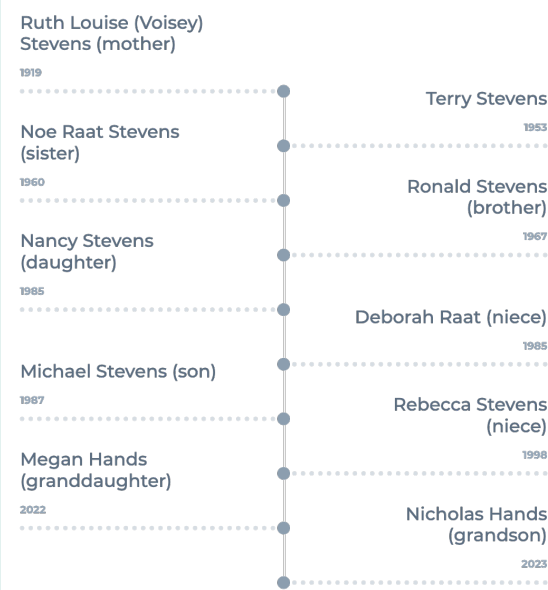
Ruth Louise (Voisey)
Stevens - age 13
3rd from back row



The Stevens' family have been part of MSA for 100 years. Mr. Terry Stevens (Class of 1953) and his daughter, Nancy (Class of 1985), shared their family tree starting with his Mother, Louise, who began at MSA in 1919 up to today with Megan in grade 10 and Nicholas in grade 9.

Terry has not only had his family attend MSA, he has also taken on many roles in support of the school and Catholic education. He has served on the Board of Governors, Diocesan Committee, MSA Men's Association, and was a Stall Manager at the Bazaar for many years. Terry says the MSA has been an integral part of his life and that of his family's. Over the years, he has made many lasting and treasured friendships. Nancy shared that both she and her cousin have lost their school rings and look forward to reordering a new one when Megan (Class of 2022) orders hers. Megan loves the opportunity to try on her Grandad's ring so see how it looks. Terry Stevens is very proud to be part of the MSA family.

Stevens Family Timeline



Seniors Helping Seniors Cyber Security Month

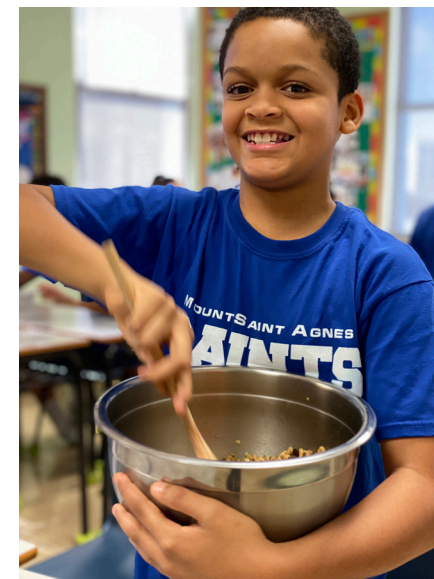
Grade 10 students were happy to be a part of the Security Savy Seniors Event during Cyber Security Month on Thursday, October 18th. This was hosted by the Department of ICT & Policy Innovation and took place at the St. Paul's Centennial Hall in Hamilton. Seniors were to bring their mobile device in to receive one on one, answer and questions time with the students. "Seniors helping Seniors"



The day inspires kids to explore and pursue their interests in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.



STEAM DAY 11.12.2019



Students were exposed to Baking (science & math), Origami (math & art), creating APPS (technology) and a Domino Challenge (design & engineering)

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION: MARCUS WINS!

Congratulations to Marcus DaCosta in Grade 10 for not only winning 1st PLACE in the 15- 18 year category(wild life entry)



but also BEST OVERALL photo for the Dr. Reg Grundy Annual Youth Photography Competition. This competition was hosted by the National Museum of Bermuda and Marcus beat out 600 entries to win Best Overall Photo.

MURAL COMPETITION: MSA WINS!



Well done to Ms. Capelo's Art Class, they won 1st place in The Point mural painting competition! The competition was organized by Bermuda National Gallery and sponsored by the Green Family. They have won \$5000.00 for the School.