



Principal's Message

Dear MSA Family,

As we embrace the excitement and opportunities of the 2023-2024 school year, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all our students, families, faculty, and alumni. Your enduring commitment to our school's values and traditions continues to inspire us all.

This academic year brings fresh beginnings, promising experiences, and countless opportunities for growth. Our dedicated educators are passionately guiding our students on a journey of knowledge, compassion, and discovery. Together, we foster an environment where curiosity thrives, talents flourish, and lifelong friendships are forged.

To our cherished alumni, you remain an integral part of the MSA family. Your contributions and achievements are a testament to the values instilled during your time here. Your ongoing support enriches our community, and we eagerly invite you to remain engaged in our journey, offering your wisdom and experiences to the next generation of Saints.

As we revel in the vibrancy of this academic year, let us also turn our hearts towards the Advent season. This sacred time of anticipation calls us to prepare,

reflect, and rejoice in the birth of Jesus. Let's take this opportunity to deepen our faith, embody kindness, and spread joy to those around us. May our actions and intentions be guided by love, hope, and unity.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for being an essential part of our MSA community. Together, let's make this school year one filled with inspiration, growth, and accomplishments.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent season and a joyous journey ahead!

Mrs. Anna Faria-Machado



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Ring Ceremony

written by Anijahé Martin,
Grade 12 student and
Student Council President

At the heart of our academic journey at MSA, the Ring Mass stands as a touching tradition, marking a pivotal moment in our educational expedition. Beyond just receiving our rings, this ceremony embodies the shared experiences, camaraderie, and profound connections we have forged during our time at MSA. This year's Ring Mass took place on September 22, 2023, at St. Theresa's Cathedral, with 27 students receiving a ring. The ring, a timeless symbol of achievement and commitment, represents more than just a piece of jewelry to the graduates; it is a tangible reminder of the challenges overcome, the lessons learned, and the enduring connections formed. Following the Ring Mass and the sweet indulgence in cupcakes and drinks (organized by Grade 11), the students gathered for lunch, which is not merely a meal, it is a communal experience, fostering relationships and reinforcing the bonds that make the MSA community so special. As we wear our rings with pride, we carry with us the essence of MSA, a community bound by the pursuit of knowledge and the everlasting connections



Purpose-built Classrooms Open in time for an Expanded ELP

At the beginning of the school year, we celebrated the successful expansion of the new Bishop Robert J. Kurtz, C.R. Early Learning Centre at MSA! The addition of these state-of-the-art classrooms is a significant and exciting development for the school.

The ribbon cutting ceremony included a blessing from Bishop Wes Spiewak, C.R., and official ribbon cutting by our Board Chair, Sean Kelly '02, P '36. The purpose-built centre, which encompasses classrooms and an outdoor recreation area for the Early Learning Program, Kindergarten, and Grade 1, showcases a commitment to providing a collaborative and engaging learning environment.

The emphasis on the Reggio Emilia approach to learning, collaborative spaces, and interactive workstations reflects a contemporary and student-centered design. Careful consideration was given to creating spaces that encourage creativity, independent learning, and a sense of community.

The addition of an Atelier (early learning art studio) further enhances the learning experience, providing students with a dedicated space to explore and express their creativity.

The new Early Learning Centre allows MSA to meet the growing demand for its Early Learning Program, and we welcomed an additional ELP class this year. We appreciate those who contributed to fundraising efforts for this expansion, including those who attended our Country & Western Gala on April 15. Thank you!



Julia Meireles

We are excited to have Ms. Julia Meireles join us as the ELP Assistant Teacher. Julia is Bermudian born and knew from the age of sixteen that she wanted to follow a career as an Early Years' practitioner; indeed, she honed her skills while volunteering on school breaks.

She enrolled at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was able to gain experiences through work placement practicums and work in various schools throughout Halifax. She graduated in May of 2014 with a Bachelor's degree in Child & Youth Studies with a Minor in Psychology. Since 2015 she has been working with students aged 2 to 5 and, in the last five years, had the role of being the Head Teacher, managing the school daily.

"I really enjoy the MSA community. MSA places a strong value on making connections with not only students, and families, but staff as well". Julia loves that she is at the start of forming a solid foundation for her students' journeys, not just cognitively, but emotionally, since a safe, secure, space means everything to children of this age group.

**WELCOME
TO
THE
TEAM**



National Honor Society

Written by Nia-Rene Outerbridge, Grade 12 student and President of National Honor Society



The National Honor Society (NHS) is an organization that recognizes high-achieving students who demonstrate qualities of leadership, service, character, and scholarship. To become a part of the Society, students need to meet certain criteria set by their school, including maintaining an average of at least 85% and being involved in extracurricular activities. NHS has been a part of MSA for decades and is a vital part of our community. My role as the president of the NHS includes leading the organization and overseeing the coordination of meetings, collaborating with other officers, and communicating with members and advisors. I also play a key role in organizing service projects, fundraising activities, and events. I find that this role is the perfect opportunity to see what I am capable of as a leader and I am excited to not only organize activities, but also have the backing of my executive team - Vice President Emily Dunstan, Secretary Chrishanté Dill, Treasurer Anijahé Martin, and Historian Colin Cardosa.

Save the Date Career Day 2024

MSA
MOUNT SAINT AGNES ACADEMY



9:00am - 3:00pm
23 February, 2024



19 Dunonald Street, Hamilton
Mount Saint Agnes Academy

Learn More



Contact
441-292-4134 ex 1908



Email
cwhite@msa.bm



Please consider spending a few hours on Friday, February 23 to share some information about your career with our high school students. Contact Charlene White (cwhite@msa.bm or 292-4134 ext 1908) for more information on the MSA Career Day 2024!

**WELCOME
TO
THE
TEAM**

Caroline Starling

Ms. Caroline Starling was born in Manchester, England, and has lived the last nine years in Norfolk. Caroline completed her undergraduate degree at Manchester University, as well as her PGCE, and also completed a Master's degree at the University of Buckingham. For the last fourteen years she has taught English language and literature to both elementary and high schoolers.

Caroline's last school had a warm community feel, so MSA was a perfect match.

We asked Caroline what she brings to MSA. "I have vast experience in the teaching of English and American Literature, and I believe I can generate a passion amongst students for the great classics of literature in order to broaden their learning. My favourite part of teaching is sharing these great works".

Her year begins with tragedies, Romeo and Juliet, in Grade 10/11, and Hamlet, in Grade 12.

Caroline's own passions include the work of the great Victorian Elizabeth Gaskell, and she also enjoys the American classics, including very different writers in F. Scott Fitzgerald and John Steinbeck.



The MSA Canadian Universities and Colleges Tour 2023

It was a whirlwind 10 days in October when 28 Grade 11 and 12 students, accompanied by two chaperones, visited universities and colleges in Maritime Canada and Ontario. In total, 22 post-secondary institutions were toured, including Dalhousie University, Acadia University, University of New Brunswick, Queens University, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, University of Western Ontario, University of Toronto, Sheridan College and University of Guelph.

Students had the opportunity to compare programs, campuses, residences, and cafeterias. Sessions with international recruiters provided information about the programs and the academic requirements.

In addition to the tours, the group visited Niagara Falls, Canada's Wonderland Halloween Haunt and, in true Bermudian fashion, there were a few visits to shopping malls, and multiple trips to Starbucks and Tim Hortons.

Everyone returned from the tour very tired but more equipped to begin the important decision-making process of applying for and selecting a post-secondary school that best fits their goals and preferences.

Sports & Spirit

We are very proud of the active participation and success of MSA's athletes in various sports!

In hockey, boys' and girls' teams from both elementary and middle school participated in the hockey festival, with coaching support from Mrs. Jennifer Hamilton and Mr. Sam Glazebrook. Having a coach from the Bermuda ladies' national hockey team is a great inspiration for our athletes.

Congratulations to our senior boys' volleyball team, coached by Mrs. Juanita Blee, Mrs. Valerie Martins and Mrs. Lexi Rego, for winning the Bermuda School Sports Federations Senior School Boys' Volleyball Tournament on Friday, November 24. The middle school boys & girls and high school girls, played in the same tournament in the last week of November.

In netball, the middle school girls' team has played two friendly games, and claimed victory against Warwick Academy. In the last week of November, primary school girls took part in a netball festival.

The football season is in full swing with the high school boys' team, middle school boys' & girls' team, and primary boys' and girls' team all competing. The senior boys team recently won a match against the Bermuda National Girls Team and our over 16 boys are the champions of the first six-a-side football competition. The senior boys' team have also made it all the way to the finals and the middle school boys made it to the semi-finals in the BSSF - Knock Out Cup. The final game will be played on Saturday, December 9 at Bermuda National Stadium.

The dedication of the coaches and the collaborative effort of the students in these sports contribute to a vibrant and active sports culture at MSA. Best of luck to all the teams in their future games and tournaments!



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Celine Burrows

Welcome to our new Grade 1 teacher Mrs. Celine (Clease) Burrows. Celine is no stranger to MSA as she taught French and drama from 2012 to 2014. She and her husband decided to move back to Bermuda after living in Alberta and teaching for five years with the Calgary Catholic School Board. Celine grew up in Alberta and graduated from the University of Calgary. She completed her teacher training in Ontario at Nipissing University.



Now, back in Bermuda, she is thrilled to teach at MSA once again. Celine tells us that "MSA feels like home!" Her favorite part of teaching is getting to do something new and exciting every single day. Celine loves spending time getting to know her students and listening to their thoughts and ideas. She is constantly inspired and motivated by them.

Celine said, "It's so satisfying for me to see my students progress academically and personally throughout the school year. My goal is to make learning fun and engaging!"

Bermudians Doing Great Things

Last year a school wide project, focused on inquiry-based learning, cross-curricular projects, and direct applications to the “real-world”, was introduced around the theme: Bermudians Doing Great Things. Here are some examples of the projects completed.

Music: The Grade 8 choir and the Grade 10 band performed the song 'Proud to be Bermudian' for the Spring Concert. Ronnie Lopes '76 came to MSA to speak to the students about recording the song with other well-known Bermudian musicians, his experiences with music in Bermuda (and in different countries) and all of the opportunities that are out there in music for young people. He also joined the students in the Spring Concert performance.

Science: Middle school students met with Choy Aming '93 from the Bermuda Zoological Society. Choy spoke to the students about the many great research projects he is working on. Choy spearheaded the Bermuda Shark Project and also assists with many of the ongoing research projects at BAMZ. The students were excited to hear about his close encounters with sharks and the importance of the conservation of these remarkable creatures.

High school students learned about Bermudians researching Bermuda's oceans. Students went to the Aquarium and Trunk Island to research Bermuda's endemic and native species.

Elementary Art: ELP students created a self-portrait project of Bermudians doing great things. They spoke throughout the year about identity, community, and our helping hands. This tied into their religion studies as they discussed taking care of the environment and each other.

Other elementary classes highlighted Bermuda in their art projects on mangroves, bridges, identity, oceans, beaches and Bermuda flora and fauna. Grade 1 hosted an assembly supported by Ms. Horsefield of BUEI (Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute) and Ecoschools.

Religion: Grade 10 students created masks of Bermudians doing great things. The project was twofold: visual representation on the outside, and the qualities of the individual on the inside of the mask.

Grade 1 students made cards and sent snacks to the residents of Matilda Smith Home for Valentine's Day to honor our elderly Bermudians.

ELA: All middle school students read "Girlcott" by Bermudian Florenz Maxwell. The central theme is based on the 1959 Theatre Boycott to end segregation in Bermuda.

Julia Pimentel

Welcome back Ms. Julia Pimental '19! We were so happy to have her as a student, and she has now returned to us as our new ELP Teacher. Julia was effusive about her own time at the school, which began in Grade 4 and finished with graduation in Grade 12. Part of her strong draw to returning was how well supported she was by all our teachers and staff; that example was decisive in her decision to follow a career in teaching.

Julia has worked at Kaleidoscope Arts Foundation here in Bermuda, and in America at the Harvard- Radcliffe Childcare c schools in Cambridge, MA. Julia completed her university rsity, also in Cambridge.

Favourite part of teaching? "To witness the joy of discovery. Being a part of that moment is truly special."

Home & School Association

Written by Laura Smith
'99, P'25, '27, Home &
School President

The Home & School Association is a member based group designed to facilitate collaboration between the 'home' and the 'school' families for the betterment of the young people who attend MSA. This is achieved through various social and fundraising events. I am Laura Smith, President of Home & School. Your amazing executive team consists of Vice President Katrina Smith '01, P '21, '25, Secretary Chrislyn Dill '99 P '24 and Treasurer Elaine Miskiewicz P '28. Whether you are an alumna/us or new to the school, you are part of the MSA family. We will be having many wonderful events this school year, including the Santa Breakfast in December, Paint n Sip in January, Volleyball Sports night in February, Easter Hunt in March, Vendor Market in April and Golf Tournament in May! There are many events for all of us to come together, have fun and help support the school community.

We look forward to seeing you at our events.





Graduates earn more than \$300,000 in scholarships!

In the last issue of Blue and White we congratulated our 27 graduates, all of whom were accepted into colleges or universities. We are now pleased to share that our students received \$289,000 in entrance scholarships from chosen post-secondary institutions, and more in local scholarships. This is a great testament to the success that MSA has in preparing students who are achieving excellence in academics, sports and the arts and whose characters are disciplined and strong. We are very proud of all of them.



Did Someone Say Spirit?

We have a vibrant spirit and sense of camaraderie at MSA, especially during the Spirit Days for different grade levels. The involvement of house teams in various games and activities adds an exciting and competitive element to the Spirit Days, which are filled with teamwork and unparalleled enthusiasm.

The dedication and leadership of the house captains contributed significantly to the success of these events, making these Spirit Days memorable and enjoyable for everyone at MSA.

Congratukations to all elected house captains:

Elementary

Red House: Finlay Martin and Grace Caplice

Green House: Taran Hollis and Ariana Frias

Blue House: Luka Pastor and Julia Stoppa

Yellow House: Dominick Almeida and Lily Amaral

Middle school

Red House: Laurisa Souza and Liam Stones

Green House: T'Mia Williams and Cameron Smith

Blue House: Semaj Baisden-Scott and Qunicy Ratteray

Yellow House: Alexis Sousa and Solomon Turner

High school

Red House: Keiran Smith

Green House: Emily Dunstan

Blue House: Marcus Duarte

Yellow House: Jacinto Saints



SEEK Week (Student Exploration, Experience and Knowledge)

Middle school students participated in their choice of STEAM-themed four-day workshops during MSA's first SEEK Week in June 2023.

Grade 8 students had an outdoor adventure experience including surfing lessons, building a raft, canoeing, games on Paget Island, and preparing for an overnight camping experience, including all food preparation.

Grades 6 and 7 had a choice from the following:

Ocean Warriors: Ocean conservation, a baby longtail health assessment, dolphin habitat and beach clean-up and how plastics impact our marine environment were just some of the activities that students partook in with Jeremy Madeiros, Dolphin Quest, BZS and KBB.

Art: Students beautified part of the MSA campus, painting outdoor steps bright and cheerful colors. They also learned how to screen print and created designs on T-shirts and bags.

Come Build with Us: Students learned the history of kite making, before putting their knowledge into practice, resulting in some beautiful Bermuda Kites. They also built and painted planter boxes for at-home gardening.

Digital Dynasty: Focused on being proficient and responsible with new technologies, students created digital models on 3-D printers, learned about digital storytelling, completed a photography and graphic design workshop and learned the first steps of coding.



ALUMNI

IN THE NEWS

Class of 1985 Mini-Reunion

Written by Sandra Abraham '86

The Class of '85 hosted a 'miniunion' at the Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo, on May 18th, 2023. A fun time was had by all and, as usual, they spent the entire evening catching up. Since they missed their 35th reunion in 2020, Sandra and her classmates decided to plan a little get together while some of our overseas classmates were visiting. She wrote, "We enjoyed seeing old and new faces, graduates and those we were a part of our class along the way. We love catching up with anyone who shared time with us during our years at MSA so if we don't have your contact information and you'd like to join us for our next event, just reach out to Sandra Abraham at sanabraham@northrock.bm and we'll add you to our mailing list."

Congratulations to Brandon Sousa '13 for being appointed Co-President of the Bermuda Volleyball Association.

Coral Wells '89 recently received the 2023 Trail Blazer Award from the Business Development Agency, during the 2023 Tech Awards. This is in recognition of her work in technology education in Bermuda.

Cody Rego '23 won the Hermes Equitation Championship at the 2023 Hampton Classic Horse Show in the United States, riding Ironman, in September.

University Tour Connection

The students on the University Tour connected with alumni as they toured the universities or colleges. In the Maritimes, they had visits with Brianna Benevides '23, Jake Roberts '23, Mataeo Holder '23, Tiago Rodrigues '23, and Rico Cabral '21. In Ontario it was lovely to see Ines Bolarinho '20, Mia Currin '20, Bryce Arruda '23, Cadence Grayston '23, Megan Soares '23 and Ashley Soares '20. It is wonderful to see these young men and women thriving in their new surroundings. It is also reassuring to know our curriculum prepares them well for the academic rigors at university and college.

Goodbye to Sr. Mary Palardy

It is with deep sorrow that we bid farewell to Sr. Mary Palardy, formerly known as Sr. William Jude. She passed away suddenly on October 4 after a short illness. Sr. Mary Palardy was a devoted member of our community, having been a student at MSA and graduating in the mid-1950s. Her love for Bermuda led her back to MSA, where she served as a teacher for Grade 7 and 8 students, a position she held until the end of 1967. Her commitment to education extended for nearly four decades, and she retired in 2008 after 39 years of teaching.



Were you a student of MSA? Do you enjoy organizing events? Do you want to see more of

your former classmates? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, then the Alumni Committee needs you! A strong alumni body is vital for any school, and we are rebuilding the committee this year. If you are interested reach out to Suzanne Decouto, sdecouto@msa.bm, or 292-4134 x 1943.

Mark Your Calendar!

December 18 - January 3

Christmas Break

January 13

Home & School Paint & Sip

February 12-16

Mid-Term Break

February 23

Home & School Volleyball Night

February 29 & March 1

Sports Day at National Stadium
for Grades 4-12

March 3

Happy Birthday MSA!

March 9

Home & School Easter Egg Hunt

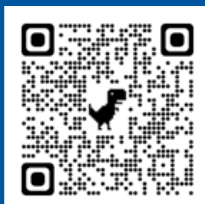
May 27 - June 9

ART Auction

June 28

Alumni Annual Sip & Snack

Have you signed up for
our Alumni Facebook
page? Scan over the QR
code and sign up today!



Did you know that you can give a donation
to MSA online? Just visit www.msa.bm/
donate to make a gift and support MSA.

Contact Us

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

Telephone: 441-292-4134 ext.1943

Fax: 441-295-7265

Email: advancement@msa.bm

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May 2024 bring you
warmth, love, and light.



Merry Christmas from the faculty, staff and
students of Mount Saint Agnes Academy!

