

# St. Alphonsus School News

Fall Term 2016



Fall Fun for Everyone!

## From The Principal

The older I get, the faster time seems to go by. It feels as though things just got underway, and yet here we are at the end of November; a term of work is completed, a third of our school year is under our belts and Advent is upon us again. There are any number of old and new adages about time: time flies when you are having fun, time and tides waits for no one, time is money etc. Many contain kernels of wisdom, but none really capture time's character.

When we are young, it can seem to take an eternity for time to pass. Waiting for birthdays and Christmases can be excruciating. Looking forward to new adventures and privileges- transitioning to high school, learning to drive, getting a first job- can seem unreachable. At some point most children will bemoan their situation, saying that they can't wait until they grow up.

Once you are "grown up" your perspective changes, though. Certainly you still look forward to milestone events, but one becomes more keenly aware in retrospect of all that has already happened. Those same birthdays and Christmases come and go at an alarming rate. Watching children grown from a babe to toddler to teen brings this awareness into sharp focus. Parents often reflect on this process as we go through the events of the school year. Recently one mom said she went to put the Christmas Concert in her calendar, only to remember that her youngest is in grade seven, past the stage for concerts (pardon the pun).

One thing for certain, there isn't much you or I can do to slow the passage of time. All we can do is make the most of the time we have. Looking to the future or reminiscing about the past, while good in small doses, can take us away from the moment we have right now. Hopefully this season of Advent provides each of us with time to think about how we want to spend the great gift of time we have been given. The feast of Christmas will come and go in a blink of an eye, but here's hoping its rich traditions allow for reconnecting with family and friends in the moments it provides.

Have a blessed Advent!

Peace,

Christine McInnis  
Principal

P.S. For a neat take on how time flies visit:  
<http://maximiliankiener.com/digitalprojects/time/>



“How did it get so late so soon?  
Its night before  
its afternoon.  
December is  
here before its  
June. My  
goodness how  
the time has  
flew. How did it  
get so late so  
soon?”  
~Dr. Seuss



# School Plan 2016-2017

One of the tasks of the school administration is to develop a plan in consultation with the various members of the community, including staff, students and parents. Many of the initiatives pursued by schools require a long term approach for implementation. As a result, most school plans encompass more than one school year. This practice has been the case in our school; these goals will continue forward into subsequent school years.

## **Goal 1- Numeracy**

Numerical Comprehension: To develop students' ability to think creatively and persist when solving mathematical problems.

- Staff will be involved in professional development across all grade levels. Priorities meetings throughout the year will focus on different aspects of numerical comprehension.
- Teachers will spend time in direct teaching of problem solving including modeling the thought process needed to solve problems.

## **Goal 2-Sustainability**

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD): To assist students in becoming informed and responsible decision-makers, who actively contribute to the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of all people.

Staff will use professional development time to begin the process of developing a school plan specific to education for sustainable development

Staff will discuss ways to authentically engage students in curricular topics. We will review the foundations for sustainable development and environmental education. Teachers will use this professional development as a springboard for integrating ESD into their lessons.

Teachers will share and discuss ESD activities that take place at their grade level.

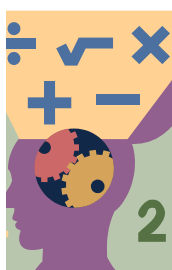
A student group for sustainable practice will be initiated.

## **Goal 3- Inclusion**

Inclusion of All Learners: To ensure that students of all ability levels have learning experiences that are engaging, providing appropriate challenge to each individual.

- Professional development will focus on broadening the scope of lessons, allowing for greater differentiation across all subject areas.

The resource teacher will plan collaboratively with classroom teachers on a regular basis and will consult with teachers and resource staff to determine progress towards the goals that are set for individuals and groups



# Looking Back

## September

September started with a fun **Meet the Teacher/Terry Fox Family Walk** event on the 15th. Families got a chance to talk to staff and then joined in a walk through the community in honour of Terry Fox and the Marathon of Hope. As well, there was pizza and drinks aplenty!



Our **Student Council Elections** were held on Wednesday, September 28th. Thank you to all students who participated in the election process, especially those who were nominated for positions. Congratulations to the successful candidates. This year's student council is comprised of the following members:

Prime Minister:	Paul Houston
Deputy PM:	Alexis Lloyd
Ministers of Finance:	Ben Marana Mitchell Vanstone
Minister of Communication:	Jenna Semenko
Gr. 8 Premier:	Matthew Babiuk
Gr. 7 Premier:	Harlan Sellner
Gr. 6 Premier:	Andrea Snow-Cajina
Gr. 5 Premier:	Nathan Poklar Jacob Philpot

They are a great group. I am sure we can look forward to the great events and activities that they will organize for the student body.

September saw the completion of another successful **Book Fair**. Our stalwart crew of staff and parents always manage to make it a fun event. This year's theme was, "Bookaneer!"; the art room, with its pirate themed decorations was very sea worthy! Our sales were close to \$5,000, which is a truly amazing number. Thanks to everyone for their hard work and support.

## October

On October 7th our grade seven and eight classes went to The Forks and St. Boniface Cathedral for our annual **Junior High Retreat** Day. The theme of the day was The Beauty in God's Creation It was a chilly wet day, but beautiful nonetheless— a perfect day for prayer, scavenger hunts, games and team-building.

We had our **second school mass** with Br. Janusz on October 13th. Our grade four students received their bibles as part of the liturgy. Congratulations, friends! I wish you well on your journey to learn more about our faith.



Our **Student Led Conferences** took place on October 18th and 20th. As always, these conferences provided an opportunity to celebrate student learning and to set goals for the school year. Feedback from the students, parents and teachers was positive. We came out of the conferences feeling a sense of direction and purpose.

The **Dress Up and Dance** on October 22nd was a ton of fun. Our committee has a report later in the newsletter.

Our student council hosted its first event on October 30th. The annual **Hallowe'en Sock Hop** gave everyone a chance to kick up their heels for the afternoon before heading home for a weekend of tricks and treats.



On October 29th, the school hosted a **Volleyball Tournament**. There were eight teams in competition, both boys and girls. The day went very well and all the athletes and coaches were thankful for the opportunity to enjoy some time on our courts.



## *November*

Our school's **Annual General Meeting** took place on Monday, November 7th. It was an opportunity for the board and the administration to discuss our plans with the parent community. I have included the School Plan Summary and a Financial Report from the board in this newsletter for parents who were unable to attend the meeting.

On Thursday, November 10th the students participated in a **Remembrance Day Assembly**. It was a great opportunity to remember the people who have sacrificed so that we might live in peace and freedom. It was a beautiful service with prayer, scripture and song. The students seemed to sense that it was a time of deep reverence and respect. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us .



A group of our grade five-eight students took part in **WE Day** on November 18th. WE Day is a social justice youth rally that aims to inspire youth to get involved in local and global issues through volunteerism and fundraising. It was an amazing experience to be at the MTS center with 16,000 young people; the energy was palpable! Certainly the message of finding something you are passionate about and acting on it is a great one for all of us to take away from the day.

## Looking Forward

### *November and December*

On Thursday, November 24th our **first term report cards** will go home. Parents will have an opportunity to review them with their children. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

**Advent assemblies** will take place each Monday during Advent. Our first assembly will be on November 28th at 8:50 AM. Family members are always welcome to attend. This first Monday will be a purple colour day to mark the change in liturgical season.

We will be having our annual **Christmas gift wrap** on Tuesday, December 6th, where we wrap presents brought in by the students for local missions. An information letter with details about the project has been sent home. Parents are welcome to join us for the gift wrapping and to indulge in a little hot chocolate.

Our **Christmas Concert** will be on Tuesday, December 20th at 7 PM. Please mark your calendars and join us for either the afternoon dress rehearsal (1 PM) or the evening performance. You won't be disappointed!

The **last day of school** before Christmas is on Thursday, December 22nd. It will be a Red/Green colour day for students in anticipation of the big day. There is an 11:30 dismissal on this day.

## Open House

Please mark your calendars for our school Open House on Sunday, January 29th. If you have friends or family that are interested in seeing the school and perhaps having their children attend here, this is an excellent opportunity for them to check it out.

**OPEN HOUSE!**

## Student Government

As the Advent and Christmas seasons fast approach, student government is excited to announce new and exciting ideas coming in the 2017 school year! Student government has multiple new and exciting fundraisers, sales, and entertainment ideas to bring to the school this holiday season and school year! For the month of December, we have asked each staff member to provide us with a trivia question, and once a week student government will randomly select a question and present it during morning announcements. Each student will have the opportunity to participate. And of course, prizes are in store for the winning student! Student government has already held two successful canteens at the competitive and developmental volleyball tournaments. And we soon hope to have open canteens during lunch periods! In addition to the canteen, we look forward to what looks to be a successful canteen at the junior high dance in early December.

We have also worked in collaboration with our Generation Now social justice group, to determine where proceeds from fundraisers will be sent. We also hope to have school-wide colour days, and activity days to fundraise for organizations within our community. New this year, our student government hopes to make student council meetings public! Any students who are considering running for student government in the future will have the opportunity to check out a live meeting. Finally, for all the slushy lovers, student government hopes to hold a slushy day for our school. Popcorn day has also been put up for discussion! As 2016 comes to a close, 2017 is shaping up to be a promising year for our school community!

Paul Houston  
Prime Minister



# From the Gym

As usual, the fall has been a very busy time in the gym. All the classes are settled into our routines and are enjoying being physically active.

The primary classes have been working on moving safely in the gym. We have been playing cooperative games and are developing a sense of fair play. We are learning to use a variety of equipment and have been concentrating on throwing and catching activities. Our elementary friends have been playing volleyball lead-up games, participating in fitness challenges and enjoying a variety of low organized games. Our older students have been playing volleyball, working to assess and improve their fitness level and participating in different games and activities.

Our annual Terry Fox Family Walk was held on Thursday, September 15th. It was a great day and everyone enjoyed the pizza after the walk was finished. Thank you to everyone who participated and a special thanks to those who donated to this worthy cause.

Volleyball season is just finishing up. We had five teams on the go (three boys teams and two girls teams) with more than 50 student athletes involved. Through the season the players participated in a number of tournaments (including three hosted at our school) and over 40 league games. Our developmental teams concluded their season with tournaments for boys and girls on November 18th and 19th. Both teams had a remarkable season. We will have playoffs for our grade 7/8 teams during the week of November 28th-December 3rd. Thank you to everyone who came out to cheer our teams on. Thank you to Mrs. McInnis, Mr. Wandowich, Mr. Beilman, Miss van der Zweep and Mr. Bend for all of the time dedicated to coaching the teams. As well, thanks to Katie McKenzie and Jonah Lorenzana who refereed through the season, and to Kendra Bommersbach and Karlee McKenzie who helped at our developmental tournament. I am sure the athletes appreciate it; I know I do!

Our next inter-school sport is basketball. Stay tuned for further information.

That's all for now. If you have any questions or concerns about the Physical Education program, please come by the gym or call me at the school. Take care and stay active!

Blake McInnis  
Physical Education Teacher



## French Update

Bonjour les parents, for the first term students have been learning assorted themes in French, such as: Moi, les nombres, et la salle de classe, just to name a few. Students have been exploring these different themes through oral discussions as a whole class, and partner work. They have also been learning through songs, videos, and playing various games to aid in comprehension of sentence structure and vocabulary. The objective in class is to have students communicating in French as much as possible, even in the younger grades. Most grades began learning simple commands right at the beginning of the year and have been practicing asking questions in French since then. The student's confidence and accuracy in speaking French is growing stronger and I am very proud of all that they have accomplished. So far, all students have learned greetings such as: Bonjour, salut, au 'revoir, and comment ça va? Grades 3-8 are using complete sentences when asking questions, which include: Puis-je aller à la toilette? J'ai une question, and puis-je aller boire de l'eau? Meanwhile, grades 1-2 are scaffolding their way up to full sentences by asking questions in simpler forms such as: La toilette? and Boire de l'eau?

Bravo à tous les étudiants. Bon travaille! :)

Here are some links to French videos and language games that can be done at home:

<http://kidworldcitizen.org/2014/01/09/french-cartoons-kids/>

<http://bc-yk.cpf.ca/resources/for-students/french-activities/>

[www.french-games.net](http://www.french-games.net)

<http://voilalearning.com/en/educational-games-2/>

French learning app/website:

[www.duolingo.com](http://www.duolingo.com)

Madame Medeiros

French Teacher





# Halloween Dress Up and Dance Event 2016

The 20th annual Halloween Dress Up and Dance Social that took place on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> has been deemed a huge success as a result of our generous St. Al's community!

We are so grateful to our 70 plus volunteers, families who donated prizes to the children's raffle, to the parish for supplying the tables and chairs, and to those families who participated in the St. Al's Pumpkin Patch!

We would also like to thank Mrs. Resendes for all of her help during the month of October as we worked through all of the preparations for the social! Thank you also goes to Mr. Cox whose efforts ensured that tables were moved and set up during the Thursday evening so that our preparations for the social would go much more smoothly!!

The social raised just over \$2,900 and all proceeds will be utilized by PALS to support various projects throughout the year.

We are looking forward to another fun and entertaining Halloween Dress up and Dance event in October 2017! Thank you again to everyone who participated – it was great fun for all of our ghouls and goblins!!



# PALS

PALS would like to thank the school community for the success of our Second Annual Wine Tasting. The event was a lot of fun and was a great community builder. The event this year raised just over \$5000 and will be used to buy items for the classrooms.

Also, big thanks to our fantastic Halloween Social committee that did a wonderful job. This event sold out again and always proves to be a great evening for both parents and children.

As the new chair for PALS committee I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Sherri Poklar and we have our boys Nathan in Grade 5 and Matthew in Grade 2. Jackie Mackling is our PALS co chair whose two boys Alex and Brendan are also in Grade 5. I am excited to be part of this dedicated group of parents, the numerous volunteers and the school community who consistently demonstrate dedication to St. Alphonsus School. PALS meetings are monthly and are listed in the school calendar. New parents are always welcome and attending the meetings goes towards your volunteer hours. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or have any questions, concerns or suggestions. I look forward to a successful and fun year with the PALS committee !

Thank you and Enjoy the Festive Season as it approaches!

Sherri Poklar  
Chair



Gala is on the Way!



SAVE THE DATE

ST. ALS GALA  
XXVIII

CASINO ROYALE  
PUT THE ODDS IN OUR FAVOUR

APRIL 29, 2017  
FORT GARRY HOTEL

TICKET SALES BEGIN JANUARY 2017

PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE FOR  
TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

# School Board News

Our AGM was held on November 7th. At the meeting, the Members elected two new Board members. We wish to welcome Jeff Arnel and Christina Love to the Board of Directors.

Portfolios for the 2016-17 year are as follows:

*Chair: Mike Choiselat*

*Vice Chair/Project Management/Finance Committee Chair: Michelle Luedtke*

*Human Resources/Finance Committee: Christina Love*

*Bingo/Public Relations Committee: Marion McKenzie*

*Fundraising Committee Chair: John Czezowski*

*Parish Liaison/Fundraising Committee/Public Relations Chair: Sandy Raposo-Lloyd*

*Maintenance/ Fundraising Committee: Jeff Arnel*

*Project Management/Maintenance Committee: Jonathon Schinkel*

*Recording Secretary/Finance Committee: Kyla Kramps*

*Principal: Christine McInnis*

*Pastor: Br. Janusz Maron*

Parents and parishioners are welcome to attend the open portion of Board meetings, which are generally held on the second Monday each month at 7:00 PM at the school. Check the calendar on the school website for further details.

On behalf of all members on the Board and the school community, I would like to recognize **Kerry Martens**. Kerry was a very active member of our board, her son Tyler completed grade 8 in June. wish to thank her for her hard work and excellent service to the Board.

Michael Choiselat

Chair, St. Alphonsus School Board of Directors



# School Board News Cont'd

## Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2016

Enrollment for the 2015/2016 school year was 219 students compared to the prior year of 220.

Academic revenue increased as a result of increased tuition and government grants.

Other revenue increased due mainly to the introduction of our Nursery School program and increased usage of the Alternate K and Before and After School programs.

Expenses increased year over year mainly due to annual salary increases for staff.

The end result for the year is a small deficit of \$1,075.

## Summarized Financial Statements

### Balance Sheet

	June 2016	June 2015
Current Assets	\$ 962,053	\$ 857,962
Capital Assets	<u>916,229</u>	<u>992,052</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$1,878,282</u>	<u>\$1,850,014</u>
Current Liabilities & Debt	\$ 466,288	\$ 436,945
Net Assets	<u>1,411,994</u>	<u>1,413,069</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>\$1,878,282</u>	<u>\$1,850,014</u>

### Statement of Revenues & Expenditures

Academic Revenue	\$ 1,561,443	\$ 1,507,659
Other Revenue	428,601	361,258
Expenses	<u>(1,991,119)</u>	<u>(1,894,223)</u>
Excess Expenses over revenues	<u>\$ ( 1,075)</u>	<u>\$ ( 25,306)</u>

If you would like to see the complete financial statements please make a request at the office.

As always, a huge Thank You again to all the individuals and groups that contribute to the success of our School!  
If you have any questions please forward them to the office.

Sincerely yours,

Michelle Luedtke, CPA, CA  
Finance Chairperson



# From the Parish

## First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

Join us on Friday, December 2nd for First Friday Eucharistic Adoration - a wonderful way to prepare your heart for Christmas. Come and spend a few moments in prayer with the Lord. Adoration will begin after the 8.30 am morning mass.

## Christmas and Advent at St Alphonsus Parish

Families of St Alphonsus School are invited to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** this December.

Several priests will be available for confessions at that time. Please check you parish bulletin for the time and date.

<http://www.stalphonsuswinnipeg.ca/>

On Christmas Eve, the 7:30 pm mass will be a **Children's Mass**.

All are most welcome to attend.

Mass will also be offered at midnight and at 9 am and 11 am on Christmas Day.

## Children's Liturgy

Children's liturgy takes place at the 11 AM mass. This wonderful program opens the Liturgy of the Word to the youngest in our community. Every week they are invited to listen to the Word and participate in an activity bringing a tangible aspect to scripture. Children 4 - 9 years are invited to participate.



## St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church

315 Munroe Avenue, Corner of Munroe & Brazier, 204-667-9580

**Christmas Eve at 7:30 pm & Midnight**  
**Christmas Day at 9 am & 11 am**  
**December 31 at 4.30 pm & 7:30 pm**  
**January 1 at 9 am & 11 am**

Please come and celebrate Mass with us. All are most welcome.



# Social Justice News

The St. Alphonsus School Social Justice Committee called “Generation Now” has formed once again this school year and has been hard at work, putting into place some wonderful social justice campaigns to promote awareness of important issues and to participate in monetary support to various avenues locally and globally.

In November at the MTS Centre, Generation Now was a part of the WE Day Manitoba celebration. We Day is a like a rock concert for social change! It is “the movement of our time, empowering a generation of young global citizens through an inspirational event and a year-long educational initiative” as described by Craig Kielburger, the founder of We (formally Free the Children). This event takes place across North America and in the UK. We are including some of the photos we took at the celebration.

Generation Now meets regularly to stay informed about possible social justice campaigns that we could bring to our school community. This year, the group has selected to work toward the following avenues: Chalice Canada and Bravestone Centre.

Various opportunities for building education and awareness are being planned by Generation Now and the staff members including Mrs. Pieczonka, Mrs. Resendes and Mme Medeiros. Some of these learning opportunities include raising awareness about poverty, kind and equitable treatment of others and sustainable development.

Thank you for your continued support toward the Winnipeg Harvest food bank and plastic bag collections. Also, thanks in advance for your on-going support and generosity.

Together we always make a difference,

Generation Now



# Volunteer Opportunities

As the year progresses, some parents are wondering more about volunteer opportunities within the school. There are a number of different ways in which parents can fulfill their volunteer incentive hours while helping out at the school. Below is a list of some of the opportunities available, as well as contact information for the person in charge of the particular area. If you have any additional questions please don't hesitate to contact the volunteer coordinators or call the school office.

<b>Volunteer Opportunity</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
School Bingo	Arlette Reyes and Prima Galapon	632-4111 669-1223	Thursday evenings, ongoing
Dress Up and Dance Hallowe'en Social	Ardele karaganis	204-894-6374	September /October
MCEA Provincial Bingo (Casino Bingo)	Lisa Lachance	204-224-8148	Ongoing
Gala Dinner & Dance	Melanie Bilenky & Starlene Mosienko	204-801-4951 204-471-5840	Planning-year round Dinner-Spring
Family BBQ	Lisa Rowbotham	204-474-0126	Spring
School Board	Mike Choiselat	204-661-6500	Year Round
Open House	Christine McInnis	204- 667-6271	January
Maintenance/Gardens	Richard Lambert	204-667-6271	Fall /Spring
PALS	Sherri Poklar	204-230-2933	Year Round
Coaching	Blake McInnis	204-667-6271	Volleyball Sept-Dec Basketball Jan– Mar.
Book Fair	Helen Dembicki	204-667-6271	October
Used Uniform Sales	Open	204-667-6271	Throughout the year
Tech Committee	Doug Martens	204-228-7333	Year Round
Vision/Hearing Screening	Michelle Wolf	204-667-6271	Fall/January
Library	Kerry Babiuk	204-667-6271	Year Round
Special Events (Christmas Concert, Gift wrap, etc.)	Christine McInnis	204-667-6271	Year Round



# DECEMBER/DECEMBRE 2016

## St. Alphonsus School


Office hours: 8:00 am – 3:30pm

Phone: 204-667-6271

Fax: 204-663-4187

E-mail: [info@stalphonsusschool.ca](mailto:info@stalphonsusschool.ca)

Virtue of the Month is Charity: Charity is loving one another as Jesus loves us; helping to provide for the needs of others.

SUNDAY DIMANCHE	MONDAY LUNDI	TUESDAY MARDI	WEDNESDAY MERCREDI	THURSDAY JEUDI	FRIDAY VENDREDI	SATURDAY SAMEDI
			Nov. 30	1	2	3
			3:00 – 4:30pm Green Evolution Plant Club	Gr. 1 & 4 Culturama Day 8:30 – 12:00 – Perogy making in Parish Hall	Unwrapped Christmas gifts due 7:00 – 10:00pm Junior High Dance	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Second Sunday of Advent	8:45am Advent Assembly	1:45pm – Christmas gift wrap in gym 3:00 – 4:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Gala Meeting St. Nicholas Day	7:00pm School Board Meeting	**Rescheduled** 3:00 – 4:30pm Volleyball Windup – all teams 7:00pm – PALS meeting (offsite)	9:00am – School Mass (food bank collection item is can fruits & vegetables) Gift cards ready for pick up in school office Altar server sleigh ride party in evening	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Third Sunday of Advent Knight of Columbus Pancake Breakfast after 9:00 & 11:00 Masses	8:45am Advent Assembly	Gr. 5 & 6 field trip to MTYP in AM				9:00 – 12:00 – Confirmation Candidates Hamper packing and delivery (sign up required)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Fourth Sunday of Advent Kindergarten students attend all week 	8:45am Advent Assembly	Concert Clothes colour day 1:00pm – Christmas Concert dress rehearsal 7:00pm Christmas Concert	First day of Winter	Last day of classes 11:30am dismissal No PM Bus Red/Green Colour Day		Christmas Eve
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day Masses at 9:00am & 11:00am	Boxing Day					New Year's Eve