

From the Heart

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IHMS—FOUR GENERATIONS STRONG

Christian formation is rooted at home; extended by a Christian education; and rounded out and finalized by the Church. They all have a bearing on a complete Christian formation.

- Proto-Deacon Michael Woroby

With a twinkle in his eyes Proto-Deacon Michael Woroby proudly shares the news that his great granddaughter is enrolled to start school at Immaculate Heart of Mary School this fall. She is the fourth generation in his family to enroll in our Ukrainian Catholic School.



Proto-Deacon Woroby's 1939 St. Nicholas School graduation
Back row L-R: Michael Woroby, Joseph Hnidan
Front Row L-R: Mary Fedun, Mary Sahan, Sr. Joan, Tilly Kruk,
Dorothy Wawrenchuk

The few living individuals from his school years still remember him by his nickname "Shakespeare".

The Woroby generational story begins 90 years ago when Michael attended the Baby Hearts Class with Sister Epiphany at St. Nicholas School. He recalls how the school life was so integrated between academic studies, physical activities, music, art, Ukrainian language and religion. Every school day began and ended with prayers. There were many experiences that have stayed with Michael throughout his life, like when he had his first Holy Communion. He remembers that day so clearly, sharing such a holy and important life moment with his St. Nicholas School class. Michael's mother wanted to mark the occasion by having his photo taken at Dubchak's Photo Studio on Selkirk Avenue. On the way a Jewish lady asked his mother if he was getting married. He still fondly remembers that during the month of May the students would gather daily for May Devotions – special services honouring the Virgin Mary.

The love of church music is a treasure that became an important part of Michael's life. While at school, Friday afternoons were spent singing with the Sisters. Later in life he was able to share with others the hymns and songs that he was taught, as a cantor and choir director in various Ukrainian Catholic Churches.

The thing that Proto-Deacon Michael values most about his educational start was how precious and important it is to be able to preserve the Ukrainian language and to live out your faith fully. Michael attributes his experience as altar server at liturgical services (for both St. Nicholas School, and Sts. Vladimir & Olga Cathedral) as one of the things that gave him the desire to be a spiritual leader. At the end of each school year at St. Nicholas School, Michael was the recipient of a prize for his knowledge of religion.

The foundation of his spiritual formation began in their home. Each morning and evening the family knelt before one of the icons and recited the full gamut of prayers. In his youth he had a calling to be a priest, but his life journey took a bit of a different twist. After 36 years as a teacher in Winnipeg School Division #1, Michael was ordained a Deacon serving primarily at St. Vladimir's and Olga Metropolitan Cathedral. Proto-Deacon Michael is grateful for the many blessings in his life, especially the gift of his wife Olga, (who recently passed away) their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The Woroby's historical association with the school continued with his daughter Donna Wiwchar attending Immaculate Heart of Mary School from 1963 to 1966. Donna's daughter Jennifer attending IHMS in 1982 to 1983, and now Jennifer's daughter Katherina is entering Sadochok this Fall.

Recently we spoke to Jennifer about their IHMS decision.

"Paul and I have chosen to send Katherina to IHMS because of the Ukrainian culture she will partake in and learn from, as well as the Ukrainian Catholic base. We like that every morning the Lord's Prayer is faithfully recited. Many of the children we have met are very well mannered; they are respectful and carry themselves with a level of professionalism when speaking with adults, all things that we value as a family. Lastly we are reminded of the connection to our family that has attended the school."

- Jennifer Wiwchar-Fast



Proto-Deacon Michael Woroby
Daughter Donna Wiwchar (nee Woroby)
Grand Daughter Jennifer Wiwchar-Fast
Great Granddaughter Katherina

CROSS CULTURAL CONNECTIONS



Guest Artists Natasha Halayda and Val Vint

Immaculate Heart of Mary School had a unique opportunity this year, made available through the Manitoba Arts Council - Art Smarts Program. IHMS received a grant to fund a cross cultural art program. The program expanded upon the strength of our Ukrainian cultural teachings, while creating connections with traditional indigenous art.

The program, facilitated by local artists Natasha Halayda and Val Vint, explored the similarities between Ukrainian and Indigenous cultures. The program highlighted art forms such as geometric patterns, animal and floral symbols, nature sourced dyes, and nature based stories and how these art forms can create bridges of understanding and respect between the two cultures.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School is located in the heart of Winnipeg's North End, a site where vivid cultural communities intersect in daily living. The value of this program helped teach our children to appreciate the connections between our neighbours and ourselves.

The first session of the program took place in October, where students learned how to make natural dyes. In March, students used the natural dyes they made to write pysanky for Easter. Overall this was a wonderful learning experience for the students, especially learning a new way to approach a Ukrainian tradition.



Writing Pysanky Using Natural Dyes



LIBRARY PROJECT

We are excited to announce IHMS is embarking on a project to upgrade, update, and automate the school's library. This is a very exciting project for IHMS as we continually strive to provide the students with the best possible learning experience. The upgrade will see new books and resources, in both English and Ukrainian, added to the collection. Most significantly, an Integrated Library System (ILS) will be purchased, made up of functional modules such as cataloguing, acquisition, circulation and an Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). The technology will allow our young learners to better leverage the knowledge in our books by efficiently performing a thorough search for specific subjects and topics.



Ms. Ola Pecuch

STAFFING NOTES

Welcome and Congratulations to Alumna Ola Pecuch!

Ola will be rejoining the Immaculate Heart of Mary School community as faculty this fall, teaching both Kindergarten and Sadochok. Ola attended the school herself from 1996 to 2005.

Ola is very excited to be coming back to the School in this new capacity. She looks forward to bringing her new ideas to the classroom .



Ola's Kindergarten Photo

IHMS DEBATERS MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD ON CANADIAN JUNIOR DEBATE SCENE

The IHMS Debate team had another successful season, their third in school history. The progress made by all debaters was measurable. Debate is a valuable educational extracurricular activity, requiring students to develop their skills in public speaking, advocacy, research, and critical thinking.

Debate typically follows what is called “parliamentary” format: two opposing teams of two people represent different sides of a topic or “resolution”, much as the government and opposition do in Canadian or British Parliament. Resolutions can range from current events, moral questions or humorous topics. Debaters are required to be prepared on both sides of any issue and usually have to represent both sides at a tournament. Debates can either be prepared in advance, or compete “impromptu.” At an impromptu debate, the teams do not receive the topic until 30 minutes before the debate session begins.



IHMS debaters compete against each other in practice rounds weekly at IHMS. They also attend interscholastic tournaments against other schools from across Manitoba. IHMS debaters compete in junior debate, with other competitors from Grades 6-9, in different categories depending on their level of experience.

The IHMS Debate team had an outstanding season, seeing great results for many veteran debaters, as well as, excellent debuts for many first time debaters. Nadia Medynska (Grade 8) tied for top individual debater at the St. Maurice “Santa Claus” debate in December. Nadia and James Brennan (Grade 8) had a third place finish at the junior debate tournament at St. Mary’s Academy in February and also qualified for the Nationals in Vancouver with a strong finish at the Provincials at Balmoral Hall in March.



Ashlynn Argo and Nadia Medynska

The debate team took one travel opportunity this year – with the team of Ashlynn Argo (Grade 8) and Nadia Medynska competing at the prestigious Donahoe Cup at Sacred Heart School in Halifax in April. The team represented the school well and had a fantastic finish: placing 9th out of 27 teams (a half point shy of making the quarterfinals!). Additionally, Nadia placed 7th out of all debaters in the junior category. Although the IHMS team is relatively new to the debate scene, their performance at the Donahoe Cup and throughout the season was noted by experienced coaches and judges. In the words of one tournament organizer: “it’s always impressive when a school that is new to debate finishes in the top 10.”

As a personal testimonial, debate was not offered when I was a student at IHMS. I was later introduced to debate at St. Paul’s High School. It is a fantastic opportunity for IHMS students to get an early start in debate and develop valuable skills in the process.

The debate program is a fantastic opportunity for members of the IHMS community or friends of the school, corporate or individual, to make a real contribution to the education of young students at IHMS – big or small. While debate does not have traditional extracurricular expenses associated with it such as equipment or uniforms, there are expenses related to tournament registration, travel and a monetary award to the top IHMS debater for Awards Day. If you would like to support this excellent program, please contact the Lubov SSMI Foundation, or specify the debate program on your donation.

Opportunity Knocking!

The IHMS debate team is in search of a coach for the upcoming season. Andrew has relocated to Regina and will be unable to coach the debate team in the upcoming year.

Coaching debate is not difficult, and does not require previous experience. Anyone can learn, and Andrew would be happy to share his coaching resources. Please contact the IHMS office if you think this is a volunteer opportunity that you, or someone you know, might be interested in assisting with.

By: Andrew Konopelny (2007 Graduate)

NOT GOODBYE...SEE YOU LATER!

This year we are sad to say goodbye to two incredible teachers! Both Sister Anne Pidskalny, SSMI and Mrs. Debby Wittevrongel will be retiring at the end of June, leaving behind many wonderful memories and some fantastic programs in our school!

Sister Anne has been at the school since 1979, where she has taken on many roles. She began teaching grade 2, moving on to grade 5, Principal, and finally settling into her role as Sadochok and Kindergarten teacher.

We are thankful to Sister Anne for being the very first After School Program supervisor. Many fun times are had by the students here, giving them a safe place to wait for their parents at the end of the day; you may even remember waiting in the After School Program for your parents! Sister Anne loved to share her creative talents with the school—especially during the Christmas and Ukrainian concerts! She has created many wonderful costumes for the students, transforming them into amazing characters on stage. This creativity was carried into her classroom, always working on unique crafts with the students—no matter how messy! Her creativity shone through yearly in her hand made Halloween costumes, which all certainly remember throughout the years as she led the costume procession through the school.

Sister Anne’s presence as an Early Years Teacher will certainly be missed. She did a wonderful job transitioning the young students from home life into school life, always nurturing and compassionate in this new phase of their lives.

Some of Sister Anne’s many Halloween Costumes

Mrs. Debby Wittevrongel has been a devoted teacher at IHMS since 1998, teaching grade 5, and most recently grade 8. She has brought many positive enhancements to the school including the Recycling Program, Conflict Managers Program, Earth Day celebrations with a school yard clean up, and even installed a weather station on the roof at IHMS!

Debby has also organized several spring camps for the students, providing many memorable outdoor experiences to students and staff alike. One year, she actually fell off a horse and broke a rib while at camp—certainly memorable!

Mrs. Wittevrongel’s creativity will be missed

when she retires. During her tenure at IHMS she avidly took on the role or ‘wardrobe mistress’ for the Christmas and Ukrainian concerts. She always made sure everything was stage ready - whether that be hemming a costume, or creating accessories to complete the look. She very much enjoyed getting to know her students and taking an interest in their lives. It was not uncommon to see her laughing with her students and enjoying the moment – a testament to her warm teaching style. Mrs. Wittevrongel always ensured she was on top of new teaching practices, well versed in all areas of the curriculum, while maintaining a fun and engaging environment.

Both Sr. Anne and Mrs. Wittevrongel would share baking with the faculty, something that will certainly be missed in the staff room!

These two wonderful women have left a large impression on our school, and will be greatly missed within the halls of

IHMS. We look forward to welcoming them back whenever they are able to visit! Thank you Sr. Anne and Mrs. Wittevrongel for your countless contributions, and may God Bless you in your future!

Многая літа!



Debby Wittenvrongel Sr. Anne



Debby Wittevrongel

Save the date!

A retirement reception is being hosted at Immaculate Heart of Mary School to celebrate Sr. Anne Pidskalny’s SSMI years dedicated service to teaching. The ‘come and go’ reception will take place 2:00 - 5:00PM, Sunday, September 10, 2017 at IHM School, 650 Flora Avenue. Spread the word! Tell all your classmates and family.

Hope to see you on September 10!

KEEPING THE SPIRIT ALIVE!

*Immaculate Heart of Mary School continues to be vibrant because of our community of supporters. In the last several newsletters we introduced three important funds that will ensure our school can provide the best education today and for the future. Thank you to the donors that contributed through the Lubov SSMI Foundation Inc. to these funds. The following are donors that made a contribution between **November 28, 2016 and May 30, 2017.***

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IHMS Annual Giving Program

Please consider supporting IHMS by making a contribution to the Annual Giving Program directed to one of these three areas of need:

Move the Spirit Capital Fund

Contributions to the Move the Spirit Capital Fund are used for major capital expenditures that will benefit the school community now, and well into the future. A portion of the funds are invested for the long range vision of a new IHMS campus. A portion of the funds are allocated for capital expenditures and beautification of the current school.

School Operation Fund

Contributions to the School Operation Fund are earmarked for the day to day programs offered to the students. IHMS provides an academic program that promotes academic excellence and develops independence. Along with the curriculum there are many co-curricular and extracurricular programs for students, providing them a well rounded educational experience. Some of the co-curricular programs include: Performing Arts/Drama, Cultural Arts, Outdoor Education, Social Justice Club, School Intramural Sports, and the new Debate Program.

Scholarship/Bursary Fund

Contributions to the Scholarship/Bursary Fund provide financial assistance to students to continue their education. Full and partial bursaries are available to any student, based on financial need, as determined by the Bursary Committee. Scholarships are awarded to students based on academic achievement and/or participation in school programs and activities.

For your convenience, a donation envelope has been enclosed in this issue of **From the Heart.**

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Please contact Lubov SSMI Foundation Inc. at 204-942-0443 if you have any questions.

GRADE EIGHT GRADUATING CLASS



Front Row L-R: Abby Shymko, Nadia Medynska, Komalpreet Brar, Eryn Sitar, Cayleigh Raven, Anabel Copp, Ashlynn Argo, Kateland Amoyo, Georgette Aldam
Middle Row L-R: Eknoor Brar, Anton Verma, Myles Cesario, Dominic Jacobson, Arsen Yamborko, Neo Kiemeney, Serghiy Swinton, Marjorie Dumaua, Mrs. D. Wittevrongel (Teacher)
Third Row L-R: Mr. R. Picklyk (Principal), Mr. P. Trochanowski (Vice-Principal), Biniam Teklezghi, Kelby Arndt, Zorian Tkaczyk, James Brennan, Danylo Solar, Rajdeep Dhillon

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We connected with Tatiana Phillips (2007 Graduate) who graduated from IHMS 10 years ago to see where she is at.

What is your favourite memory from IHMS?

“After 9 years at IHMS it is nearly impossible to pinpoint one memory, but one of my favourites would have to be painting the front doors around Christmas time (as part of a stained glass painting enrichment activity).



Have you maintained any friendships from your time at the school?

“Ten years later and my friendships with some classmates from IHMS have only grown stronger. Just last spring my friend Chris and I went on vacation together, and next fall I will be a bridesmaid in my friend Christine's wedding!”


What are you doing now? Do you feel that your time at IHMS has played any role in where you are currently?

“I have graduated from the University of Manitoba with my Bachelor of Fine Arts and am currently working on my Bachelor of Education degree. I'm planning travels and looking forward to whatever is next. I believe that my time at IHMS lead me to pursue my path as an artist. The school always created opportunities for me to be creative whether it was painting banners, painting the doors at Christmas, or writing a poem for graduation. I always felt my talents were valued at school. My teachers inspired me through instilling a love for learning. This has led me to become a life long learner in my own studies, in my artistic practice, in my travels and in my career path. I am very grateful for my time at Immaculate Heart”

IHM School Calendar

- June 28
Graduation Divine Liturgy - 1:30PM at Sts. Vladimir and Olga Cathedral
- June 28
Graduation Dinner and Dance - 5:00PM at IHMS
- September 10
Farewell to Sister Anne—TBA
- February 4, 2018
Annual School Tea
- March 10, 2018
Annual Fundraising Dinner

For more details about School Events
Visit www.ihms.mb.ca

 Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/immaculateheartofmary

THE SISTERS SERVANTS OF MARY IMMACULATE

Celebrate 125 Years

2017 marks the 125 year Jubilee of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Sisters came to Canada in 1902 and began their missionary work here. We are forever blessed that they began their school mission here, and on August 28, 1905, St. Nicholas School opened—since growing to where we are today at Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

Многая літа SSMI!

Thank you to all the Alumni that contributed to this edition. If you have news or stories you would like to share please contact



Supporting the ministries of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
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