



St. Mary's Past Students' Association

NEWSLETTER ♦ October 2009

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Message from our Patron Ms. Catherine Wong, Principal of SMCC

Dear Alumnae,

The inception of the new senior secondary education makes this academic year, 2009-10, a very special one. The new system will be ousting the old in three years' time. For those of you overseas, you may wish to know, students now do six years of secondary education and take only one examination for entrance to university. Apart from changes in the curriculum to include Liberal Studies as the fourth compulsory subject, lots of other corresponding changes take place in the logistics, like replacing the 6-day cycle with a 5-day week and having six 55-minute periods instead of nine 35-minute periods per day. There is also an OLE period packed with various types of activities to enrich students' Other Learning Experiences. You will probably think that your juniors now are more blissful and fortunate because from now on, all current Form 4 students will be able to go on to Form 6 automatically without having to undergo the grilling and daunting sieving process of examination and re-admission.



Ms. Wong with members of the Student Council, sharing the logo design that communicates this year's Student Council theme of "Aspiration to blaze, Volition embrace"

This is also a year when St. Mary's will be celebrating her 110th anniversary. To accommodate the three events in celebration of the momentous year, the mid-term exam will be advanced to take place before Christmas. The thanksgiving mass will be held in the morning of 6 February 2010, and the school will open with student presentations and exhibitions in the afternoon and the next day. The fourth week of April will feature the annual production of Mr. Geoff Oliver's drama and the School Concert towards the end of term, on 29 June. You are most welcome to come home and be part of the celebrations while witnessing how the school life at present is different from your good old days here.

In addition to our own anniversary, there is another milestone to mark this year. The Canossian Missions is celebrating her 150th anniversary of inception and arrival in Hong Kong. The mass is to be held in May 2010. You may also wish to make a booking and visit the newly set up Canossian Heritage Museum at the Caine Road Headquarters.

We look forward to your homecoming. May God's blessings be with you always!

Yours sincerely,
Catherine Wong

Message from our Patron Ms. Maria Cheung, Principal of SMCS

Dear past St. Marians,

I am happy to share with you some reflections in this issue. After the unusually prolonged summer vacation, we have started the new school year again under the same threat of the H1N1 infection. Taking body temperature and washing hands before entering the classrooms have become the daily required procedures to be followed by each and every pupil, as many other primary schools do nowadays. It seems a bit strange that personal hygiene and healthy diet have become the most discussed topics in school. Due to the concern for healthy eating habits, we closed the tuck shop as of last school year. The pupils are encouraged to bring healthy food or fruit as their snacks during recess.



Ms. Maria Cheung and Sr. Virginia Wong sharing a special moment with St. Magdalen of Canossa, subject of the art piece behind them, at the Joint School Visual Arts Exhibition last year

Since our Alma Mater is on the way to celebrating her 110th anniversary, this school year would be a year of thanksgiving for our pupils. We would like them to be aware of one of the unique characteristics of this big family of St. Mary's which is unity among all St. Marians so as to create a better sense of belonging. The heritage of St. Mary's is alive among each St. Marian. Over the years, in different countries, countless numbers of St. Marians honor their Alma Mater by faithfully and outstandingly performing their duties in their various professions. The whole beautiful picture of St. Mary's, past and present, contributed by so many of us, would be a motivation for our ongoing development.

2010 is also the year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Missions of Canossian Sisters in Hong Kong. **In order to provide our students with a more vivid sense of the Canossian environment, the teachers wish to set up a statue of our foundress, St. Magdalen of Canossa, on the playground as a monument.** I believe it would be very meaningful if you could help us to accomplish this meaningful but expensive project. Please refer to the information below for details.

Lastly, with a joyful heart, I invite you to come back to join our Open Day activities on 6-7 February 2010. By your physical presence, you may meet other past St. Marians and will be able to recall some happy moments of your school days here in St. Mary's. I wish you the best and God's blessings.

Yours sincerely,
Maria Cheung

Donation Appeal for New Statue of St. Magdalen of Canossa

The construction of the statue is estimated to cost HK\$350,000. Those who would like to support our Alma Mater in this meaningful project please send a cheque to St. Mary's Past Students' Association, 162 Austin Road, Kowloon, c/o Ms. Queenie Cheng. Please make the cheque crossed and payable to "St. Mary's Past Students' Association" and mark "Donation for Statue" on the back. Your prompt action is much appreciated to ensure the project gets completed on time.

For further information about the project, kindly contact Ms. Maria Cheung, SMCS Principal, at (852) 2368 4204. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Alumnae News - Sr. Marie Remedios

Meeting Sr. Marie is a pleasure, and a most inspiring experience. We see in her not only a devoted Canossian Sister dedicated to the service of God and mankind, but also a caring, cheerful and intelligent leader, and a role model for all St. Marians.

Sr. Marie Remedios was admitted to St. Mary's Kindergarten in 1946 when she was four and a half. She received her primary and secondary school education in St. Mary's, and graduated in 1958. Then, Sr. Marie did something most extraordinary - she moved into the Convent, aspiring to become a postulant. In the following year, while she was preparing herself to join the Canossian Daughters of Charity, she also continued with her studies and even managed to complete the two-year A-Level course in one year. "I wore the school uniform and attended classes during daytime, but I would stay in the Convent after school. We would wear a special uniform with a brown skirt on Sundays and Feast days." This must be a record in the history of St. Mary's. She then became a postulant in December 1959, and in 1960, she began her two-year novitiate at the Convent of St. Mary's.



Sr. Marie, with classmate and also a PSA exco member, Mabel Leung

"God has plans for everyone," said Sr. Marie. "After taking my initial vow in December 1962, I went to England to study English Language at the London University. But then, I fell ill. So I put aside my studies, returned to Hong Kong and started teaching at Sacred Heart Commercial School, Sacred Heart Secondary Private Section and the Primary School." She resumed her studies in 1966, and completed the 4-year degree course within 2 years. Thereafter, she began her teaching career in St. Francis, where she later became Principal until 1979. She was subsequently transferred to Holy Family as Principal. In 1985, she was appointed the Provincial Superior and served in that capacity for the following 6 years. After a brief sabbatical, in June 1992, she was invited to be the Bishop's Delegate for Education for 4 years, went to Rome to be the Vicar General from 1996 to 2002, and then became the Mother Superior General of the Canossian Daughters of Charity until 2008. With her high spirit and energy, Sr. Marie is certainly not yet ready for retirement. She is currently the Vice Provincial Superior of the Province of Hong Kong-Macau.



Sr. Marie, speaking on the Canossian spirit at the Canossian Global Youth Conference 2009

Everyone who come across Sr. Marie would be charmed by her cheerful disposition and admire her tireless efforts at work. And one just could not help wondering how she managed the many different roles that she has been in. "This is the *Grace of state*", said Sr. Marie humbly. "Just accept the challenge. God will make miracles happen and get many things done." Looking back, Sr. Marie said her favourite job was still teaching.

Sr. Marie was a third generation Portuguese in Hong Kong. In fact, her mother and her 6 aunts were all St. Marians. Her elder sister, Ena, also taught in St. Mary's, (known as Mrs. Ena Maher), and her two daughters studied for some years in the Primary School. "My childhood and teenage years were all in St. Mary's, as a student and a novice. It has immense impact on my development. It is the very place which taught me the meaning of humility, generosity, simplicity, compassion and sacrifice. It

nurtured in me the capacity to love and be loved, to accept and be accepted. It made me feel free to grow and to consider what I should do for God." St. Marie said with a radiant yet serene smile. "I decided to follow the Lord when I was 7 years old, on my First Communion Day! The only question that I had not decided was: when!" Through Mother Virginia Maffei, the then principal of St. Mary's, and Mother Piera Lettuada, her History teacher in Form 6/7, God made that decision for her, and she became a live-in aspiring-cum-student in St. Mary's.

No doubt, God will continue to work miracles through Sr. Marie, as she continues to spread His joy and love, demonstrating *God's Grace of state* for each and every one of us.

PSA News - Executive Committee 2009-11

The SMPSA Executive Committee was elected at the Annual General Meeting on 7 March 2009.



Chairman
Justina Law, 198X (F.7)

Job: Advertising
Interests: Movies, Karaoke,
Catching up with old friends



Vice Chairman
Annie Choi, 198X (F.7)

Job: Office of the Commissioner of
Insurance
Interests: Golfing, Cooking



Vice Chairman
Jasbir Pannu, 197X (F.5)

Job: Human Resources
Interests: Reading, Golfing



Legal Secretary
Jody Sin, 198X (F.7)

Job: Solicitor
Interests: Karaoke, Cooking



Treasurer
Rosa Yeung, 197X (F.5)

Job: Accountant
Interests: Golfing, Music



Secretary
Ellie Wong, 197X (F.7)

Job: Leisure & Cultural Services
Department
Interests: Music, Reading, Badminton



Membership Secretary
Monica Wong, 197X (F.7)

Job: Principal Medical & Health
Officer, Department of Health
Interests: Cross-stitching



Social Convenor
Juliana Wong, 199X (F.5)

Job: Corporate Communications
Interests: Movies, Swimming,
Badminton



Publication Secretary
Angela Liu, 198X (F.7)

Job: University Administration
Interests: Tennis



Publication Secretary
Becky Lui, 200X (F.5)

Job: Sales & Marketing
Interests: Eating, Music, Movies, Gym



Committee Member
Barbara Chu, 198X (F.7)

Job: Department of Health
Interests: Reading, Music, Tennis



Committee Member
Susanna Chung, 198X (F.5)

Job: Mother of 2 and charity
volunteer
Interests: Yoga, Travelling



Committee Member
Katherine Mak, 199X (F.7)

Job: Lawyer
Interests: Travelling, Reading, Music



Committee Member
Mabel Leung, 196X (F.7)

Job: Home maker
Interests: Swimming, Yoga, Ikebana



Committee Member
Irene Young, 198X (F.7)

Job: Labour & Welfare Bureau
Interests: Reading, Movies



SMCC Teacher Liaison
Ms Queenie Wong, 199X (F.5)

Job: Teacher
Interests: Reading, Dancing,
Watching Drama



SMCS Teacher Liaison -
Mrs Christine Ng, 199X (F.5)

Job: Teacher
Interests: Reading, Swimming,
Cooking

Upcoming PSA Events

2009 Alumnae Day Activity

Lunch at Lau Fau Shan → Tour at the Hong Kong Wetland Park

The PSA is organising a group outing to the New Territories on **13 December 2009 (Sun)**. We shall gather at SMCC in the morning and then travel by coach to Lau Fau Shan (流浮山) for a delicious seafood lunch (and some shopping!). Then we shall move on to the Hong Kong Wetland Park (香港濕地公園) for a half-day tour.



Ticket price is **HK\$150 per head** (one price for all), covering transportation, lunch and park admission. Don't miss this chance to get together for some relaxation before the hectic holiday season. The itinerary is listed on the Reply Form at the back of this newsletter. **Please enrol by 20 November 2009 (Fri)** by completing the form and returning it to us. You can also download the Reply Form from the PSA website at www.stmaryspsa.org.

For enquiries, kindly contact our Social Convenor Ms. Juliana Wong at 9034 6207, or email to activities@stmaryspsa.org.

110th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

Our Alma Mater will be 110 years old in 2010! To commemorate the occasion, the PSA will be organizing a Celebration Dinner on **13 November 2010 (Sat)** in Hong Kong.

Please mark your diaries and inform your classmates. Further information and booking form will be available in our next newsletter in March 2010, stay tuned!



School News – School Open Day



To celebrate the 110th anniversary of St. Mary's, SMCC and SMCS will be co-organising an Open Day on **6 & 7 February 2010 (Sat & Sun)**, during which there will be student performances and presentations, as well as exhibitions and game stalls.

Come and share the celebration of our Alma Mater's anniversary together with sisters, teachers and students! Further information will be posted on the School website later this year.

School News – Canossian Global Youth Conference 2009

At the beginning of last school year, a group of St. Marians fearlessly took up the challenge of committing themselves to the promotion of humanity through organizing the bi-annual Canossian Global Youth Conference to discuss matters of global concern. This summer, 62 high school students from East Timor, the Philippines, the United States, Macau and Hong Kong met at the City University of Hong Kong to discuss three global issues, namely Women's Status, Food Crisis and Development of Nuclear Power, undeterred by the



Delighted guests wishing CGYC09 delegates a successful conference at the Opening Ceremony



Wearing protective masks, delegates gave their best during the Cultural Night performance

financial tsunami, typhoons, or the threat of Influenza A H1N1.

The CGYC09 would not have been a success without the support from many sectors of the society. Among these, the bondage of St. Marians, both past and present, was a shining feature of the event. How grateful the organising committee members were when many past students came back to serve as facilitators, and to offer their advice as well as financial support. It is in God's love that we could work together to pass on the Canossian spirit of humility and charity.



In Loving Remembrance...

Ms. Dorothy Leung Yu Yin, past student (Class of 1999)

Ms. Yip Wai Lan 蘭姐, school janitor

Mr. Hung Cheung Kwong, biology teacher from 1991-96 and beloved husband of alumna and retired Vice Principal Mrs. Winnie Hung

*~ Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen ~*

School News – Mentorship Programme 2008-09

The Mentorship Programme 2008-09 took on a new operating mode. Mentors were grouped into eight different sector groups, and mentees were then allocated to these mentor groups according to their



Mentors and mentees posed for a group photo after their first gathering

preferences. In the 2008-09 cohort, there were a total of 93 mentors and 96 mentees. The first mentor-mentee gathering was held on 21 February 2009 (Sat) and a Careers Development Seminar conducted by mentors from 4 selected groups was held on 3 April 2009 (Fri) as well. Throughout the year, informal meetings on a needs-basis at the mutual convenience of the mentors and mentees were also arranged.

Feedback reveals that 89.3% of the mentees were satisfied with the mentor-group arrangement and 80% of the mentees found the programme useful while 86% of the mentors felt that the programme has met its objectives and their expectations. Lastly, over 90% of both the mentors and mentees wish to keep on the contact.

The school extends sincere gratitude to all mentors who have contributed their expertise and time to guide and nurture junior St. Marians so as to sustain the proud legacy of St. Mary's.

Class Reunion News

The **Class of 1979** celebrated their 30th anniversary reunion on 11 July 2009 (Sat) in Hong Kong. 30 girls joined the campus tour during the day, and 90 girls and 9 teachers (including Mrs. Hung, Mrs. Shirley Yip, Mr. Philip Lee, Mrs. Kapo Lee, Ms. Wu Siu Lan, Mr. Siu Yuk Cheung, Ms. Sally Kwan, Mr. Lo Heung Yuen and Mrs. Sylvia Cheung) attended the reunion dinner at night to share memories and fun. To reconnect, please contact Rosa Yeung at alexrosa@netvigator.com.



A hundred girls and teachers gathered for the Class of 79 reunion dinner

The **Class of 1962** will be having their 47th anniversary reunion gathering from 25 to 29 October 2009 in Shanghai, China. About 40 classmates from all over the world have already signed up. To reconnect, please contact Margaret Chan at machansy@hotmail.com for details.

The **Class of 1969** will be having their 40th anniversary reunion on 21 November 2009 (Sat) in Hong Kong. Those who would like to join please contact Rosy Yung at rosy@sellsyourhome.com or Cynthia Wu at heungyuet@gmail.com for details.

The **Class of 1959** is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year with lots of activities. 11 classmates from Hong Kong, UK, Canada and US met in Toronto in October. Then, there will be a campus visit on 3 November 2009 (Tue), and a reunion dinner is scheduled for 6 November 2009 (Fri). Those who would like to join please contact Rosemary Kao at rosemary_kao@hotmail.com for details.

The **Class of 1960** will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in Hong Kong on 24 February 2010 (Wed). A homecoming visit and a mass will take place on campus in the morning, and a reunion dinner will be organized in the evening. Those who would like to join please contact Helen Chow at hymchow@hotmail.com for details.

The Class of 1970 (Chinese Section) is planning to celebrate their 40th anniversary on 15-17 October 2010 in Hong Kong. Please contact Genevieve Kee Shiu Yee 紀少儀 at genevieve3388@gmail.com or Agnes Cheung Kit Man 張潔雯 at agnesc33@hotmail.com for details.

Organizing a reunion for your class? Let our Membership Secretary know and we can include your news on the newsletter and the website. Email to stmaryspsa@gmail.com.



REPLY FORM

(You can also download this form from the PSA website at www.stmaryspsa.org)

Lunch at Lau Fau Shan & HK Wetland Park Tour

13 Dec 2009 (Sun)

Itinerary

Assemble on campus of SMCC	10:15am
Coach departs campus	10:30am sharp (we won't wait!!)
Walk around Lau Fau Shan	11:15am
Seafood lunch	12:15pm
Coach departs for Wetland Park	1:30pm
Tour at Wetland Park	2:00pm
Coach departs Park	5:00pm
Back at campus of SMCC	5:45pm



Dress code

To avoid stressing birds and other wildlife, please do not dress in bright colours.

Name:			
Mobile Phone:		Email Address:	
PSA No. (if any):		Year of Form 5:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I would like to join the Alumnae Day activity on 13 December 2009 (Sun). Please reserve _____ seats for me. Total ticket price = HK\$150 x _____ = HK\$ _____.			

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 20 NOVEMBER 2009 (FRI)

Kindly note:

1. As places are limited, all bookings are on first-come-first-served basis.
2. Please make cheque crossed and payable to "St. Mary's Past Students' Association", and send it together with the completed Reply Form to St. Mary's Past Students' Association, 162 Austin Road, Kowloon. (Attn: Ms. Juliana Wong).
3. Confirmation of your reservation will be sent via email or telephone by 27 November 2009 (Fri).
4. As schedule is tight, please be punctual. The coach will depart at 10:30a.m sharp. Late comers will not be entertained and no refund will be given.