



## NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2001

### PAST STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION

校長於二月二十日答覆明報記者提問的原稿：

本校師生對教育及人力統籌局局長，校友羅范椒芬女士，最近對傳統名校所發出的呼籲，全人等亦感到教育改革對香港社會未來影響的迫切性，而願意盡最大努力，使百年老校更創佳績。

在過去的多個月，校內已開始了討論整體學校發展方向的熱潮。家長、教師及同學積極參與訂定21世紀理想學校及學生的質素研究。由於本校師生一向著重於教與學的質素，此一優良傳統在現時的校本管理制度下有更大的發展空間；由於家長及校友的更大支持，學校能更有序及自發性地辦教育，師生亦因而得到更全面的發展。

教育是一件嚴肅的事業，百年樹人在今日科技發展急遽及競爭性極高的世界村環境底下，實有賴教育工作者的熱誠投身，才可以為未來世紀培育徹底有質素的接班人。

嘉諾撒聖瑪利書院校長區綺婷修女  
二零零一年二月二十日



The President and Principal of St. Mary's  
Sister Bernadette Au



The Fundraising Film Show

Dear Fellow St. Marians,

The Association has had a full calendar this year.

#### 1. Fundraising Film Show

In March 2001, the Association held a fundraising film show at the Windsor Cinema in Causeway Bay. The film "Not One Less" directed by the illustrious Chinese director, Mr. Zang Yimou for the "Hope Programme" was well received by our audience consisting of past and present St. Marians, their families, guests and the Sisters who have served or are serving our School.

After the film show, I was deeply moved by the red eyes among our audience. This film awakened us to the extent of deprivation suffered by children in the poor rural provinces in China. Most important of all, the students among our audience appreciated how fortunate they are in having far superior material resources



### MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

and educational facilities than their counterparts in China.

The Young Post reporters of the South China Morning Post attended the film show and gave a shining review of the event in the Young Post.

A sum of HK\$170,000 was raised from the film show. The Association allocated HK\$70,000 out of the raised fund to the English Learning Centre with the balance earmarked for worthwhile projects promoting student welfare and cultural exchange for our teachers/students.

I must thank Sister Bernadette, Sister Virginia and the Exco Members for their unflinching support and hard work, but more particularly, all of you for your generosity to make the fundraising film show a great success.

#### 2. Past activities of the Association

(i) Our Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, 3 December 2000 at the School Gym followed by a pigeon lunch

at Lung Wah Hotel, Shatin and a pleasant walk in Tsiu Hang, Sai Kung.

(ii) On 4 November 2000, I, on behalf of the Association was invited to participate at the 140th Anniversary & Millennium Dinner held by Sacred Heart Canossian Alumnae Association (SHCCAA) at the Grand Ballroom of Conrad International Hong Kong Hotel. On 24 March 2001, two representatives of the Association attended the Annual Dinner of St. Francis' Canossian College Past Students' Association (SFCCPSA) at the Hong Kong Jockey Club. Thanks go to SHCCAA and SFCCPSA for their warm welcome and hospitality to the Association.

(iii) Our very well acclaimed School Drama, the Egyptian Queen was held during the Drama Week from 23 April to 28 April 2001. The Exco Members who attended the play based on the life of Hatchepsut, the Queen of Egypt were impressed and amazed at the huge amount of work that our students were capable of giving to the play to make it memorable and entertaining.

(iv) I was delighted to attend the Graduation Ceremony of our School on 11 July 2001 and be able to share the joys of our fellow St. Marians on this important day of their young lives. It was a pleasant surprise to me to be seated next to the wife of our

Honoured Guest, Mr. Nicholas W.F. Ng, J.P., Secretary for Transport. Mrs. Agnes Ng, apart from being the devoted wife of Mr. Nicholas Ng, is the Chairman of SHCCAA which is an old friend of the Association.

### Upcoming Event

I and the Exco Committee extend a warm invitation to all of you to join us at the Annual Dinner cum AGM which will be held on Sunday, 2 December 2001 at the City Hall Restaurant, Central.

Lastly, I wish to thank all Exco Members who have contributed to the success of the Association and our President, Sister Bernadette and teachers for their guidance and support. Most of all, I wish to thank you for your support and participation in our activities. Please feel free to let me know how the Association may better serve you.

Look forward to seeing you all at the AGM cum Annual Dinner in December.

Yours sincerely,  
Alice Lam  
Chairman

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六十一位母校的中五畢業生在今年六月到北京參觀及與當地學生交流。以下是其中一位同學的感想。

## 升旗禮的啟示

陳蕭妙姿 楊穎琳



天安門廣場升旗禮

一聲響亮的喇叭聲劃破了清晨的長空、五星紅旗在國歌的吹奏下徐徐地升起；四周的閃光燈閃個不停；眾人的目光緊隨著上升的國旗，心中充滿了對祖國的崇敬。

隨著儀仗隊的離去，升旗儀式也結束了。回想起剛才的一切，我們彷彿學懂了甚麼。

人生可分為很多個階段。在不同的階段上，人會有不同的目標。有共同目標的人很多，他們都會成了彼此的競爭對手。在剛才的升旗禮中，位於天安門廣場前端的旗杆成了大家的目標，人人都想佔一個最接近旗杆的好位置，以達到目標。但由於好位置有限，當解放軍移開鐵欄時，眾人也就一枝箭似的向前衝，爭取有利的位置。然而，比賽的定理是：有贏家，亦有輸家。跑得快的人自然爭到了好位置，落後的人只好繼續努力，心中渴望追上領先者。各位，上述的情況是否似曾相識？

身為學生，目前的目標當然是考取好成績，然後入讀大學，為理想而奮鬥。可是，十多萬的中五會考考生中只有二萬餘人可升讀中六；中七的高考又會再淘汰一半的預科生，最後只剩下不到一萬人能順利入讀大學。而在這一萬名精英裏，亦只有少數能考進如香港大學等有名的學府修讀自己理想的科目。由此可見，在學習的競技場上，要取得一個「好位置」實在不易！於是，那些平日訓練有素或天資聰敏的學生便會拼盡全力，像趕看升旗禮的人群，或能突圍而出，成為領先者，就如我們所說的「高材生」；至於那些技遜一籌而暫時未能爭取有利位置的人則仍須努力向前。

話說回來，不少人群已跑到很接近旗杆的位置，我校的師生更幾乎

已佔據了最有利的位位置觀看旗杆。我們都很滿足，有說有笑又拍照，十分得意。當接近升旗儀式時，我們突然發現方才落後的同學竟然有了突破。他們在偶然的機會下，得到中聯辦代表余先生的帶領，竟然進入了禁區，在更有利的位置中，可以更清楚和舒適地觀看升旗禮。反思下，我們的得意忘形並未能代表我們的最後成功；反觀先前比我們落後的同學則繼續努力不懈，加上他們善察環境，把握時機，最後比我們更優勝。哈！這不正是生活化的「龜兔賽跑」嗎？

升旗禮亦使我們體會到只有願意付出才能達到目標，就如我們為了看升旗，需要在零晨三時許便要從軟綿綿的睡床上爬起來再跑到廣場去，一直要等到四時五十分才開始儀式。正因為我們願意比別人犧牲多一點的睡眠時間來等待，才能換得機會佔到較好的位置。

此外，毅力也是成功的一個重要因素。機會是要人耐心等待才會出現。同樣地，成績落後的同學一面在等待機會，一面努力發奮，從不放棄，待那些成績好的同學鬆懈下來，他們便會迎頭趕上。

從這次升旗禮中，我們不但能親身體會到身為中國人的喜悅和自豪，還學會了「勝不驕、敗不餒」和把握時機的處事態度，實在是獲益良多！升旗禮是北京之行最後的一個項目，還好給我們這一批畢業生一個最好的啟示，有些同學將會到外國留學、或往他校繼續升學，但我們一定不會忘記大家在月夜下天安門廣場的一場競賽，希望日後大家在心中的旗杆再遇。

# AN ARTICLE FROM FORM SEVEN ST. MARIAN OF 2001

Cecilia Poon Class of 2001

The temperature, like the leaves at the university, is beginning to fall these days. My spirit, however, remains high, especially when I think of my lovely days at St. Mary's. This was where I got the best sort of education and greatest amount of love from my teachers and friends. Whenever someone asked me how I managed to obtain 6As in my A-Level exam, I would never fail to tell them "because I am a St. Marian!"

Honestly, it is not an easy task to talk about my study skills, as I am not the extremely hard-working type. Besides developing a genuine interest in your studies, I believe the most important thing is to adopt a learning style that you are comfortable with.

Education is a two-way traffic. Teachers cannot and should not be the only ones who prepare for class. It is therefore wise to take a look at the materials in advance, so that you can be aware of what the class is going to be about. Usually I would take a look at the course outline or the suggested readings at night.

Sticking to a feasible timetable can also help. Self-discipline plays an essential role here but that is different from self-torture. Personally, 6 hours of revision per day is already the upper limit. Bear in mind that time for relaxation and fun should not be excluded from your timetable. Being kind to yourself (watching a short TV program or playing the piano) can actually boost your spirits for revision.

Try not to stress yourself out. If possible, stop stuffing your brain with any data two hours before going to bed. A good night's sleep before the exam may help to consolidate your memory. Insomnia could lead to poor results. Sometimes I would rather wake up earlier to revise than to stay up late.

One of the keys to success is a good reading habit. No matter how busy I am, I would set aside some time to read. It is particularly helpful to go through both the Chinese and English newspaper everyday. Not only will it help to make you bilingual but it will also enhance your social awareness.

Whenever you have questions, take the initiative to ask for help. Discussing an issue with others may deepen your understanding and offer you the chance to look at it from different perspectives. We used to have many discussions during the Literature and Liberal Studies classes. My involvement in the debate team also gave me lots of opportunities to express as well as receive thoughts and ideas.

Apart from the above, I have a habit of keeping a multi-purpose notebook. Sometimes questions or ideas might pop up suddenly. In that case, you could jot everything down and seek help later. It may also serve as a journal where you can put down your feelings towards some current issues or personal experiences. This is a wonderful way to make sure that your fantastic ideas can be stored for future use.

As a Catholic, praying to God also means a great deal to me. Regardless of your religious belief, it is not a bad idea to leave some time for meditation or prayers every morning, so that you may have a clearer mind for class or revision.

We are all privileged to be under the care of the big family of St. Mary's. Remember to treasure your schooldays and develop your potentials to the fullest! Once again, I would like to thank everyone at my Alma Mater who has always been warm and encouraging. May God bless you all!



## The English Learning Centre, St. Mary's Canossian College.

### An Update

*Greetings Fellow St. Marians and Friends of St. Mary's.*

*Firstly, let me share a simple illustration from the New Testament :*

*"What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like?" asked Jesus. "What parable shall we use to explain it? It is like this. A man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in the shade."*

*The comparison I would like to make is that only by germinating, or implementing, an idea can a reward be gained.*

*This article is about how the P.S.A. and P.T.A.'s support has enabled a 'seed' to grow in St. Mary's : the English Learning Centre (E.L.C). It's about how the E.L.C. is going to contribute to the goal of St. Marians being effective thinkers and independent learners with a high E.Q.*



Welcome to English Learning Centre  
(Drama Performance)

## **Praising Trendsetters**

On Nov. 9th, 2001, the English Language Centre in St. Mary's will have been in existence for one year. The first year of operation has been a heartening one. Like any new venture, there is a degree of trial and error, to see the best way forward. This year, the E.L.C. will remain open at lunchtime and after school (now until 5pm). Students continue to be encouraged to visit and to make use of the learning environment, with attendance recorded, and certificates of recognition awarded each term for those visiting 10, or more, times, and book prizes being awarded to those students making the best use of the E.L.C. in each form. The student receiving the highest commendation for her efforts last year was Grace Lam, of 4E, after making use of the E.L.C. 113 times. Such highly motivated self-learners need to be congratulated and looked upon as role models.

## **More Language Enrichment**

This year, the E.L.C. is to be better utilized as a classroom. All students from Forms 1 to 3 are timetabled to have one lesson as a split-class per cycle. I will be working with the students and giving them greater exposure to authentic English. Thus, students will have the opportunity for small group work and individual attention with a wide variety of resources in a stimulating environment. Last year, English teachers made good use of the E.L.C. for Oral work, both preparation and presentation. The E.L.C. may be booked and utilized as an additional classroom. However, it must be remembered that space is limited to a split-class, which is more conducive to an informal and friendly learning environment anyway.

## **Introduction of Logbook & Portfolio System**

The biggest change is the introduction of extrinsic rewards, in the form of marks as part of students' self-initiative assessment for participating at the E.L.C. No doubt there will be jockeying for entry this year. Forms 1 to 3 will have log books, which will be stamped after being involved for 30 minutes at the E.L.C. Forms 4 to 6 will have portfolios that they need to compile. There will be a minimum number of written reflective submissions they need to complete, based on their E.L.C. visits. It is envisaged that students will make bookings to use the E.L.C., and plan what they will do there. For example, they may choose to watch a (pre-recorded) documentary, or some (English) popular video clips, or examine a current issue from the mass media and then have a chat group based on that stimulus, culminating in the reflective writing. The Special Activity session and after school Self-Access sessions can therefore be better utilized. Our new administrative assistant, Miss Salween Lee, a competent, experienced and versatile English teacher will also be on hand after school to interact with students.

## **Increasing Student Involvement**

Each lunchtime there will still be the following five sessions: Karaoke (Mon.), Board Games (Tues.), Story-telling (Wed.), a Special Activity (Thurs.) and a Film Show (Fri.). However, different Forms may be targeted, and asked to sign up. The student helpers, previously named "English Police", are now called English Prefects because of the increase in their duties. This year we expect to tighten the number from 33 to 20, and give the prefects a greater leadership role, providing a solid base for real student 'ownership' of the E.L.C. English Teachers will still maintain a (reduced) presence; being involved mainly on the Story-Telling and Special Activity days. It is expected that students will become stronger in these two fields as extra credit (in terms of the Logbook/Portfolio- reflection opportunity) is given to students nominating themselves to

lead these sessions. Again, self-motivation is being built-in.

## **Growing Resources**

As far as the actual facility is concerned, everybody was unsure about the initial decision to remove shoes before entering the E.L.C. The idea was to keep the new carpet clean and provide seating area on the floor, since the E.L.C. is small in size. I am pleased to say that this system works well. Students feel comfortable and relaxed in such a homely environment. Students are also allowed to eat lunch together inside. The consideration here is that time is tight during lunchtime. Again, the concept has worked well. (Thank you to the P.S.A. for the donation of slippers for students to share, which they love to do.) The fold-up furniture has also proven an asset, due to its versatile nature. I have managed to tap in to a good source of popular and interesting books, audiocassettes (both of which students can borrow for home use) and C.D. ROMs from Ashton Scholastics Red House Book Club. Students order three times per year, and the school gets 20% of the value of the order in free books. In addition, a small profit is made, and I have been able to purchase additional equipment for the E.L.C. : a karaoke machine, a twin-cassette and C.D. player and more furniture. I would also like to thank Mr. Geoff Oliver for the generous donation of his video collection to the E.L.C.

## **Building a Culture for English**

The Education Department's main thrust regarding 'English Corners' is to have the N.E.T.'s running them. S.M.C.C.'s more expansive philosophy this year has a team working behind the scenes on the operation as the school recognizes the importance of creating a culture where students can receive greater exposure to the real use of English in an informal and friendly learning environment. The team for 2001-2001 is Mrs. Marilyn Yau (Eng. Panel Chair), Miss Carmen Cheng, Miss Queenie Lee, Miss Salween Lee and myself. The E.L.C. will also serve as the base for the English Society. With Mrs. Eileen So (Junior Eng. Panel Chair) and myself collaborating on this area, along with a band of student helpers. Meetings will be conducted in the (furnished) foyer area adjacent to the E.L.C.

## **A Bright Future**

S.M.C.C. is lucky in a number of ways. Sr. Bernadette Au, the principal, is a visionary one, and that the P.S.A. and P.T. A. are quite supportive of her. Furthermore, there is an intelligent staff, conscientious students and a proud history. The E.L.C. at our school is a recent development, though not dissimilar to others in higher education, in view of methodology, such as the E.L.C. at the H.K. Institute of Education.

I have many reasons to be proud of our E.L.C and the direction it is taking. I hope you can share this feeling with me, and be confident in the knowledge that S.M.C.C. is at the forefront of world learning trends and striving for your daughters future : academically, emotionally, aesthetically and spiritually, not just in theory, but in action!

Ultimately, the goal of the E.L.C. is to make English intrinsic as our students branch out into the world.

Your ideas and support are always welcome.

May God bless you,

(Mrs) Michelle Bennett (N.E.T.)

P.S. The area directly above the E.L.C. is a bare rooftop. I've had a thought about turning this area into a rooftop garden. Would anyone with any expertise/knowledge in this field kindly leave their contact details at the school office.