



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2004

162 Austin Road, Kowloon

PAST STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Message from Sr. Bernadette Au, President of SMCCPSA

Big Celebrations for 105th Anniversary

The 105th anniversary celebration of the school is certainly a big and important event because all St. Marians, be they young or old, can gather, unite themselves, witness and experience the joy and triumph of the long establishment of the school and its contribution to bringing up very outstanding leaders, good mothers and good wivies, in many sectors both in the local and overseas contexts. To prepare ourselves for this upcoming event, there will be several major programmes to be held throughout the year.

The year of jubilee will kick-off with a 'School Life and Students' Life' display in the Gymnasium and the Open Playground from ten in the morning to six in the afternoon. The Student Council, in cooperation with all ECA clubs, will set up stalls in the open playground to demonstrate what students' lives are like today. All alumni are more than welcome to participate in the activities and get a glimpse of the dynamics of the current school life. Some of you might have received a call from the History Panel to bring in precious artifacts you have collected for the school history exhibition.

In the early part of the afternoon, we shall have a Thanksgiving Mass. During the Mass, some old girls who graduated in the 60s, 70s and 80s will share their fun and memorable experiences in the old days. We can compare how life is different, or similar, in the past and present at St. Mary's.

After the Mass, there will be a Home-coming Party and the launch of the Mentorship Programme for Past St. Marians in the Primary School Hall. Some of you might already have received an invitation jointly issued by me and our Chairlady to register as a mentor for your younger St. Marians who are about to leave school and take up a role in society. If you haven't done so, please find out more from our school website.

The second event of the celebration is an Open Day on May 14, 2005 with its focus on research-based projects presentation and development in academic learning in the current years. 'Research-Based Learning' has been a vehement project in the school to motivate our learners to carry out discovery learning with the support of a personal teacher



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

adviser. On that day, besides the grand presentation of the terrific research, all other subject departments will demonstrate outstanding assignments, learning projects and interesting work produced by students which are evidence of their active and zealous learning process.

Of course, St. Mary's is never contented with sheer academic endeavours. In addition to coursework exhibition, the next highlight programme is the school drama, which is a romantic love story directed by Mr. Oliver. The drama, which will be staged from 11th to 15th April, will readily present the collaborative efforts of all teachers and students in St. Mary's. Definitely, the performance will be a rosy manifestation of students' blessed endowments, multi-dimensional thinking skills, creativity and so on.

Following the drama, we will have the school concert on 27th June. It is noteworthy that the concert is taking place at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre this year, which means it is all the more splendid and festive. In addition to performances by the school choirs, orchestras and concert band, the Alumni Orchestra and past St. Marians will be invited back to perform and play in the harp concerto. As some music is composed by the current students, the melodies, together with their originality, will surely make the night enchanting and memorable for all.

Surely this year is a valuable year for St. Marians and all those who are affiliated to the school in one way or another. These activities, apart from marking a significant milestone in the history of the school, will also be treasures for each and every St. Marian because in the course of preparation and arrangement, their talents are actualized, their strengths are nurtured, and for that our hearts are solidly united. Let us bear in mind the slogan adopted for our anniversary celebration this year 'Cherish our Year of Glory, Pave the Way for Eternity' (陶工百載育人榮天恩, 桃李萬代振宇樂天年). Let us truly live the spirit and wisdom of the slogan and let us really work with one heart and one way - for simply we are St. Mary's.

Sister Bernadette

Message from the Chairman

In the autumn of 2003, the St. Mary's school improvement project, one of the most ambitious fundraising campaigns, ever contributed by the Association was launched. Today, thanks to St. Marians' commitment and Sister Bernadette's leadership in mobilizing volunteers, at the Fundraising Dinner on 7 February 2004, Sister Bernadette announced that we have successfully raised HK\$6 million for the project. The remarkable success of the fundraising campaign would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and support of past and present St. Marians. Well done!

The Association, jointly with the School will launch a Mentorship Programme in the new school term. The purpose of the Mentorship Programme is to provide an avenue for past St. Marians to utilize all available talent and resources to assist in a tangible way, in the development of the students of the School.

The objectives of the Memtorship Programme are to:

1. Assist the School in expanding the student development and counselling services offered to students;
2. Assist the School in setting up a permanent structure which facilitates student development in a practical and lasting way;
3. Prepare our students to embark on their chosen careers by providing guidance and tutoring under skilled and talented mentors.

The Mentorship Programme will focus on all Form Sixth students.

The Association is to assist the School in identifying and sourcing past students to conduct activities such as counselling or mentoring of students in their chosen careers, on a one on one basis or in small groups; offering the mentees guided tour of the actual work environment of the mentors, if at all possible and implementing a programme which focuses on skills needed by students, to survive after school, to enter the world of work, continuing education, etc.

The Association will, through the School, get a better understanding of the students' needs in order to design the right programme to meet those needs and to seek the students' input generally. The Association will define a clear mechanism for documenting and evaluating the Programme, in order to determine its effectiveness and course of action for improvement.

We need mentors. I earnestly call upon you to join the Mentorship Programme as mentors. It has been said that a true mentor is 3 things: someone who believes in you more than you believe in yourself, someone who cares for you enough to tell you the truth and someone who is an expert in her field. Please be that mentor to our students. For members who are interested, please contact me at 26788259 or Mrs. Karen Lui of the School at 27242771.

Back to the normal business of the Association, the major activities that the Association participated in 2004 are:-

1. The Fundraising Dinner held on 7 February 2004 at the School Hall and the Gym where we enjoyed a warm and fun-filled evening despite the rain and the cold. On the same day, a few Exco members and I attended a ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of the School Hall of St. Mary's Canossian School.
2. Sister Bernadette, Mr. Ma, representatives from SMCCPTA and I attended an interesting discussion forum held at the Caritas Centre on the school management issue.
3. Our AGM was held on 21 February 2004 at the Geography Room of the School.
4. Some Exco members and I attended the Graduation Ceremony in July and before this, I on behalf of the Association, attended the Graduation rehearsal held at the Gym for the hand-over of membership cards to our new members.

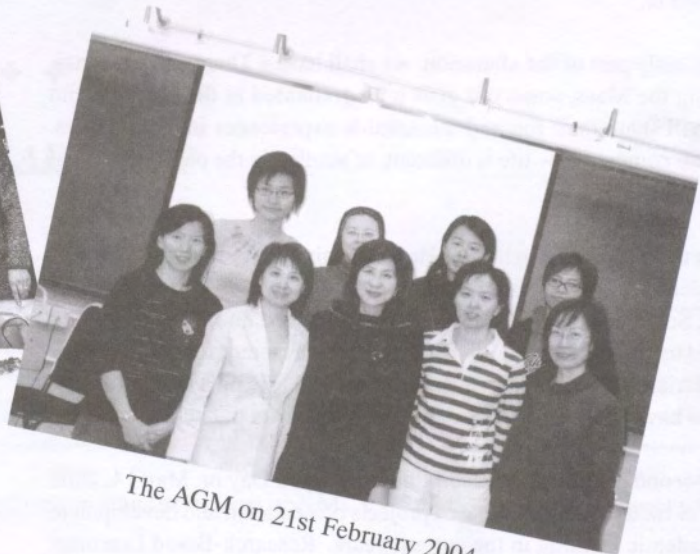
As for the coming events, first, in celebration of the 105th Anniversary of our School, a thanksgiving mass will be held at the School on Saturday, 27 November 2004 and will be followed by a reception. You are invited to join this event. Second, the Alumni Day will be held on Sunday, 19 December 2004. We will organize an outing to the New Territories. The pick-up point for the outing will be at the School. Please join us. For details, please see the circular relating to this event.

Lastly, on behalf of the Association, I thank you for your support and participation in our activities and look forward to seeing you on 27 November and 19 December 2004.

Alice Lam



The Fundraising Dinner on 7th February 2004



The AGM on 21st February 2004

Once a St. Marian



St. Mary's Canossian College, University of Hong Kong, the University of Oxford were the three institutions that I am most indebted to for shaping me morally, emotionally and intellectually. Of these, I would contend, St. Mary's probably left the strongest mark.

If one was to suggest an analogy looking at the well-being of a person - I think St. Mary's was mostly responsible for developing the bone and flesh of this person, Hong Kong University then added to the physique attractive skills and

competencies, and Oxford, of course, embellished it with an elegance and sophistication.

None of these was planned, of course, as most things were seldom planned in my time.

I entered St. Mary's as a repeat Primary Six student in 1961 when the school had one vacancy, which was competed by 220 anxious little girls. For some curious reason, I was the successful applicant in an exhausting entrance examination on a hot summer afternoon.

This was the first significant turn that would decide the direction of the rest of my formative years.

I moved through Primary Six of Chinese Section to finish Form One to Form Seven in the English Section. As a result, my two sisters also became St. Marians and the three of us attended the college for a total of 30 years!

From 1961 to 1968 when I left, St. Mary's in those days meant: one male school officer in the person of the sixty year old gardener - as gender was a great divide, blue bloomers for physical education lessons - as trousers were totally unacceptable, Chinese compositions submitted in ink and brush - as these were writing instruments of the day, mathematics calculated by hand and log tables - as electronic calculators were non-existent items.

Likewise, at home, we went to the local rice shop to borrow the use of the telephone, we joined the local Chinese herbal drinks shop to watch black and white television together, and it took me at least one hour one way to take the bus journey from home near Kai Tak Airport to Austin Avenue.

In my time in St. Mary's, I received not only tuition on academic disciplines, I also learnt to distinguish the difference between right and wrong, roughly hewn and finely crafted, generosity and meanness, sincerity and hypocrisy. In short, the good, the bad and the beautiful.

From 1968 to 1971, I read English Literature and Chinese Translation in the University of Hong Kong. Again, for some curious reason which I shall never find out, I was given the prize "Best Woman Undergraduate" at the end of my First Year.

On the strength of the prestige of the prize and, more importantly, the princely sum of HK\$1,500 which was a whole year's tuition fees, I lobbied my parents successfully to stay in Lady Ho Tung Hall as a resident in my second and final year.

This was the second significant turn that gave me the opportunity to live away from home for the first time. The unprecedented freedom was to leave an indelible mark on my understanding of people and my perception of the world.

My university years were turbulent times in Hong Kong's colonial history. It was also probably the end of the period when HKU students were still able to waft through the campus, rather like their Oxbridge counterparts must have done in the 1940s and 1950s, as depicted with great accuracy and finesse in the film "A City of Glass".

After graduation, I started a career in education, first as a teacher of English Literature, and then as an ESL editor for English language teaching

materials with Oxford University Press. The series ACCESS standing for Active Course in Certificate English for Secondary School was my first work with OUP which actually earned me the prize money of HK\$300 for the naming the series in a worldwide competition. The honour was secondary; the main thing was it was one quarter of a month's salary!

After four years of working life in Hong Kong, I felt that more intellectual capital was required and applied successfully to read Education in the University of Oxford. I suspected the Head gave me a place probably due to the fact that there had never been any students from Hong Kong at the Department of Education.

For whatever reason they accepted me, this was the third significant turn that changed the rest of the course of my life.

Making the fatal mistake of thinking that Oxford was England, and the record-breaking heat wave of the summer of 1976 normal English weather, I agreed to marry an Englishman in Oxford after graduation in 1977.

My husband read nuclear physics and engineering, for a total of ten years including undergrad, D.Phil and post doctorate research, in Oxford. It was his contention that his biggest achievement was to have stayed ten years because I arrived in his ninth year!

After Oxford, I worked at the Schools Council in London, which the Hong Kong Institute of Language in Education was modelled after, as an English language material editor for immigrant, gifted and handicapped children.

In 1981, we returned to Hong Kong because I had had enough of poor English weather, poor English food, and poor English salaries.

On returning to Hong Kong, on the spur of a moment, I accepted an invitation from an acquaintance to bumble into - what was then - a most unusual second career.

Again, I did this for no particular reason, and this turned out to be the fourth significant turn that changed the rest of my working life.

From 1981 to now, I have taken on a second career in public relations and advertising, first as an employee in one of Hong Kong's leading financial conglomerates, and then as the founder owner and operator of my consultancy firm, in partnership with Omnicom, the world's leading PR & advertising group.

We have four offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai and Beijing, employing about 80 staff, and provide corporate communications and marketing communications services to clients in finance, health care, technology, property, retail and government.

I was absolutely delighted to receive the request for an opportunity to contribute to St. Mary's for future St. Marians.

The English Learning Centre now bears the name Annie Liang Bentley. I am greatly honoured that it tells my largely uneventful but slightly unusual story, through St. Mary's, to HKU, to Oxford, and finally back to St. Mary's.

It is a tremendous delight for me to know that, in this charming little house, girls from all backgrounds, of different aspirations, and varying degrees of talent, could jointly learn how language - and in this case the English language - could be a vehicle that transforms the world for them in the blink of an eye.

Language expresses thought. It is also actually true that thought is formed by language. Without proficiency in language, one is moving through life without the freedom of genuine thought and adequate expression.

The best time to be imbibed with the power of language is the years the girls spend in St. Mary's. It is my hope that they do not let these golden years fall by the wayside. Rather, use them to the full to create for themselves the most robust muscles, so they could take on the world when it is time for them to fly.

Annie Liang Bentley
30 August, 2004

For the Newsletter of the Past Students' Association

The Dedicating and Naming Ceremony of the New Extension of the School on 15th May, 2004 marks the successful completion of the Fund Raising Project. It is really a great achievement of the community of St. Mary's - the Principal, past students, students of both secondary and primary sections, parents and staff.

I can still vividly recall how worried we were when we were informed by the EMB that the new extension could not be funded by the government because of the tight financial budget as a result of the economic downturn of Hong Kong in April of last year, not long after the fading out of SARS. This meant that the school had to shoulder all the expenses. Six million dollars is not a small sum. But just within a few months, a group of past students volunteered to form a Fund Raising Committee to take up the responsibility of raising the amount required. A series of activities including fund-raising dinner, raffle tickets, and a carnival were organized to appeal for donation from business sector, past students and parents. As a member of the committee, I have witnessed the commitment of the Principal and have

been deeply impressed by the enthusiasm, dedication, selflessness and perseverance of this group of past St. Marians. They have demonstrated their strong sense of belonging to the school and all the virtues that good St. Marians should possess. They have set a very good example for the students now studying in St. Mary's and upheld the good tradition and spirit built by principals, teachers and the Canossian Sisters in the past.

Today, we all enjoy the fruit of this project - the improvement of facilities and school premises. May all the students always bear in mind the donation contributed and hard work done by every one involved in this project and learn from the good example set by their alumnae. On behalf of all my colleagues, I want to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all past St. Marians and the Past Students' Association for their generosity and dedication.

Ma Chi Hung
(Vice Principal)



School Drama 2005 Psyche

In this 105th anniversary year we will be presenting the *8th in our series of SMCC world-premiere musical dramas

This year it will be an original musical play entitled Psyche and is based on the Greek legend of Psyche & Cupid. It is a romantic story telling how Cupid fell in love with the beautiful Psyche and she fell in love with him; but because she mistrusted him, he rejected her - "Where there is no trust there can be no love" - and she had to undergo a series of tasks and hardships in order to win him back. The script and lyrics will be written by Geoff Oliver and the Production Team and the music will be composed by our students.

We plan to give 5 performances during Drama Week : April 11 - 18, 2005

For further information on dates, times & ticket prices please contact the SMCC: Psyche website which will be set up within the next few weeks.

We look forward to your presence during drama week to celebrate the creativity, skills and enthusiasm of St Marians.

Geoff Oliver
Writer & Director of Psyche

* Previous musical dramas:

Orpheus, Under the Spell, Animal Farm, Arion & the Dolphin, Orpheus 2000, The Egyptian Queen, Two by Two - each of these are original plays with script, lyrics & music written in SMCC



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name _____ Membership No. _____

Address _____

_____ Tel No. _____

Please send the above information to e-mail address tammyeung@smcc-canossian.org or SMCCPSA c/o St. Mary's Canossian College, 162 Austin Road, Kowloon.

Dear St. Marians,

The Alumni Day 2004

Most people know that physical activity is important for building and maintaining our health throughout life. What is pleasurable is to combine physical activity with lovely sightseeing, good chat and good food. This year, we shall go to a nature reserve and an open-air flea market in the New Territories. Details of the Alumni Day are as follows :

Date : Sunday, 19 December 2004

Programme : 8:45 a.m. Assemble at the School
 9:00 a.m. Depart for 尖鼻咀紅樹林
 12:30 p.m. 豐盛海鮮餐
 銀白灼生中蝦 • 銀耳魚蓉羹 • 竹笙羅漢齋
 菠蘿咕嚕肉 • 清蒸海上鮮 • 蠔油郊外菜
 金針雲耳蒸雞 • 蟹肉西蘭花
 2:00 p.m. 黃金海岸蒙馬特廣場, 寶生蜂場, 恒香老婆餅
 5:00 p.m. Arrive at the School

Fee : HK\$120 - per person (Children under 2 years old are free of charge. However, please state the numbers of accompanying children who are under 2 years old for insurance purposes.)

Bookings will be accepted on a first-come-first served basis. No reservation is accepted unless accompanied by payment. NO WALK-INS are acceptable.

Please return the Reply Slip together with a crossed cheque by 4.12.2004.

We look forward to seeing you on the Alumni Day.

Yours sincerely,
 Alice Lam
 Chairperson

Please detach here as applicable

REPLY SLIP

To : Ms. Kimmy Kwan,
 Membership Secretary
 Flat 17G, Block 4,
 Belvedere Garden, Phase 3,
 Tsuen Wan, N.T.
 (Tel. 9138 0990)

From
 Name : _____
 Membership No. : _____
 Contact Tel. No. : _____
 Contact Fax No. : _____
 E-mail : _____

I wish to reserve _____ tickets for the Alumni Day. I will bring _____ child/children (under 2 years old) with me.

(Cheque No. _____ in favour of ST. MARY'S CANOSSIAN COLLEGE PAST STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION)

Due to escalating cost of postage, a contribution from you towards such costs will be most appreciated. Please send your contribution by cheque.

(Cheque No. _____ in favour of ST. MARY'S CANOSSIAN COLLEGE PAST STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION)