



St. Mary's Past Students' Association

NEWSLETTER ♦ October 2010

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

Dear Alumnae,

2009-10 has been a year full of colourful actions and activities with two major events, the first year of New Senior Secondary Education System, and the celebration of the 110th anniversary. Seeing off our last cohort of HKCEE students and welcoming the first cohort of HKDSE students occurred simultaneously.

In the amusing and pleasant drama 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', our invincible drama team had a breakthrough in stage setting. The dream of Mr. Geoff Oliver in having 'a stream with running water' on stage came true, thanks to the creative technological support of Mr. Philip Lee, our Physics teacher. Having retired to Britain for a few years, Mr. Oliver found himself more of a Hong Konger than a British, so he has decided to return and stay, hopefully, a few more years with us, as our Drama and Language Consultant!



Students delighted the audience with a scene from "Singing in the Rain".

In the School Concert, over 500 past, present and future St. Marians gave the most impressive and enjoyable performances under the guidance of our Music teachers, Ms. Viola Chan, Ms. Erminia Ho and the Conductors. One of the dazzling scenes entailed around 80 students 'Singing in the Rain' with umbrellas of different sizes, shapes, colours and patterns. Now these umbrellas are placed around the school campus, ready to shelter and protect St. Marians from sudden showers and rain!

The new school year of 2010-11 reopened with F.5 and 6 students running for posts in the Student Council Exco, both cohorts graduating in the year 2011-12. Teachers are making allowances in ways to optimize the use of resources to give the girls the needed support!

Dear alumnae, as 2010 approaches its end, may I invite you to join us in the upcoming PSA dinner, the last in our series of celebrations for St. Mary's 110th anniversary. Do come to spice up this festive event, so that it too becomes another memorable occasion for us to savour! God's blessings be with you always!



Ms. Catherine Wong sharing a celebratory moment with Mr. Geoff Oliver.

Yours sincerely,
Ms. Catherine Wong

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

Dear St. Marians,

The new school year has begun! The girls are absolutely delighted to see the green playground and the permanent location of the statue of St. Magdalene of Canossa. To have something new in school is to create a new experience for the students.

One of our focuses for this school year is to bring our students' attention to have more respect. We have designed special programmes and activities for different levels, to nurture their heart and mind, and to encourage high morals and good behaviour.

Some of you may have heard that there is a major change in the allocation system for the Primary Six students at the end of this school year. They will be the first cohort starting the "Through Train" mode in the admission to Form one. This significant change, so different from the trends of the previous years, will be an enormous challenge to St. Mary's.



There is a "greener" environment for our young sisters this year with the new painted playground.



Ms. Maria Cheung with the new statue of St. Magdalene of Canossa.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Exco members of the Past Students' Association. I am greatly impressed by your sacrifices, your generosity with your valuable time, and your precious contributions in preparation of the 110th anniversary dinner, making it a memorable event for all of us. This shows that St. Marians are truly bonded because of their shared memories.

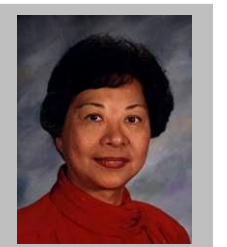
May God reward your generosity with His abundant blessings!

Yours sincerely,
Ms. Maria Cheung



In Loving Remembrance...

Ms. Mimie Ho, past student of Class of 1960, passed away on 11 March 2010 in Vancouver, Canada. Ms. Ho was a community leader in Vancouver and the daughter of our retired teacher Ms. Liu Kwan-yin, who currently also resides in Vancouver. Our condolences go to Ms. Liu and Ms. Ho's family.



Sr. Mary Asti, teacher in the 1950s and 60s, and School Supervisor in the 70s and 80s, peacefully returned to God on 5 June 2010 in Italy. Fondly known as Mother Mary by all, Sr. Mary had spent three decades in Hong Kong nurturing St. Marians before relocating to the Philippines in 1982. Mother Mary had been an integral part of the history of St. Mary's, and an inspiration to generations of St. Marians. Her love, kindness and wisdom will be greatly missed.



PSA News - Statue of St. Magdalene of Canossa



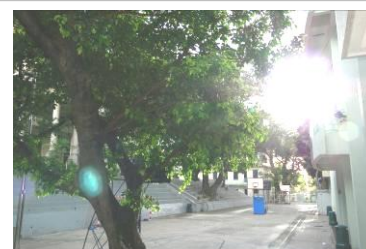
The PSA is delighted to announce that we have successfully helped raise HK\$362,425 for the construction of the statue of St. Magdalene of Canossa for SMCS. It is now completed and has been moved to its permanent location outside the Marian Building. Students were all excited about the beautiful statue when school started. We are happy that it will continue to serve as a reminder of the Canossian spirit of love and dedication in the years to come.

The PSA Exco and Ms. Maria Cheung, Principal of SMCS, would like to thank all past students who have contributed to make this project a success. May God bless you all!

PSA News - 110th Anniversary Dinner & Open Campus

For those of you who will be coming to the 110th Anniversary Dinner on 13 November, make your day complete by visiting our alma mater and have a walk down the memory lane with your classmates! The campus will be open from **2:30 pm to 5 pm**. The PSA Exco and current students will be standing by to show you around. Looking forward to seeing you!

(Note: No parking space available on campus.)



Come visit the school before going to the dinner!

School News - Mentorship Programme 2009-2010

The Mentorship Programme 2009-10 continued to evolve. Based on the different sector groups, mentees formed their own small groups of four to five, and two to three mentors were teamed up to take care of them. This allowed for more in-depth interaction, focusing more on personal growth rather than career concerns. In the 2009-10 cohort, there were a total of 40 mentors and 95 F.6 mentees. The first mentor-mentee gathering was held on 16 January 2010 (Sat), and a Careers Development Seminar, conducted by five mentors from four selected groups, was held on 26 March 2010 (Fri). Eight mentors also helped to conduct an Interview Skill Workshop for mentees on 4 May 2010 (Tue). Throughout the year, informal meetings were also arranged between mentors and mentees.



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

Feedback revealed that 97.7% of the mentees were happy about the mentee group arrangement. 78% found the programme useful and over 80% wish to keep in contact with their mentors.

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

SCHOOL DRAMA - "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"

As part of the 110th Anniversary celebrations, Shakespeare's famous comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, was presented during the Drama Week from 19-24 April 2010. The play was adapted and directed by Mr. Geoff Oliver, with some original songs and dances composed by students. It was full house again and the audience thoroughly enjoyed this enchanting story of quarrelling lovers and feuding fairies. Thanks to everyone and let's look forward to the next one!



A big THANK YOU again to Mr. Oliver!



Enthusiastic students playing out various scenes from "A Midsummer's Night Dream".



110th ANNIVERSARY SCHOOL CONCERT

The 110th Anniversary School Concert was successfully held on 29 June 2010 (Tue) at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. The audience was treated to a whole array of



The Alumnae Choir with conductor Ms. Viola Chan.

musical performances by the School Orchestra, the Chinese Orchestra, the Primary School and Secondary School Choirs, the Concert



Alumnae musicians (left to right): Dr. Teresa Suen (harp), Ms. Grace Yu (conductor) and Ms. Vanessa Wong (piano).

Band, the Percussion Ensemble, the Alumnae Choir, as well as a display of amazing talents of past St. Marians including Dr. Teresa Suen (international harp performer), Ms. Vanessa Wong

(the youngest Gold Medal winner in the 7th International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory



The Primary School Choir also shared their angelic voices.

of Vladimir Horowitz) and Ms. Grace Yu (composer of songs for the school choirs and orchestras). It was a great evening of joy, thanks to the leadership of music directors Ms.

Viola Chan and Ms. Erminia Ho, and dedication from all our talented performers. Bravo, St. Mary's!



The grand finale...all performers went on stage to sing the School Song.

Teacher's News - Mr. Philip Lee

This summer, we got another winner at St. Mary's. Only this time, he is a teacher! Congratulations to Mr. Philip Lee for winning the First Place Grand Award at the 25th China Adolescents Science & Technology Innovation Contest (Teaching Aid) [第二十五屆全國青少年科技創新大賽（科教製作）一等獎] with the "Interference & Diffraction Teaching Kit" he developed. We were delighted to have the opportunity to talk to Mr. Lee about this special achievement.



Congratulations to Mr. Lee!

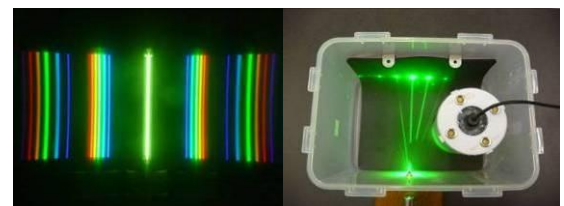
"I developed this teaching kit last year to help me teach light



Mr. Lee's teaching kit (left) is much more handy than the old equipment (right), and is only one-tenth of the cost.

interference and diffraction under the new senior secondary school curriculum," said Mr. Lee. "In the past, the equipment used was expensive and cumbersome and it took a long time for the whole class to witness an effect. We need tools that can appeal to a big class at once. Since nothing in the market served the purpose, I challenged myself to making my own tools," recalled Mr. Lee.

"I used easily available materials as far as possible to keep the cost down. Knowing that the lack of appropriate teaching materials could also be a problem for many other teachers teaching this topic, I decided to enter the contest so that I can share my invention with fellow teachers in Hong Kong and China," he said. "To have won an award because of this is definitely icing on the cake," laughed Mr. Lee.



The effects of interference and diffraction demonstrated by Mr. Lee's teaching kit.

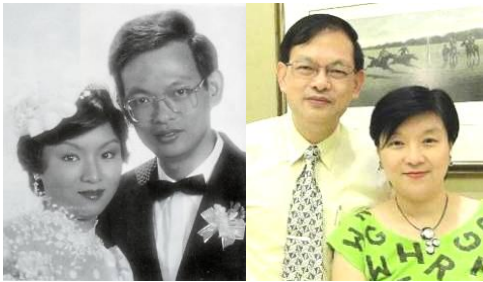
Mr. Lee has been teaching Physics at St. Mary's for 32 years. "I thank Sr. Ida for hiring me back in 1979. I used to teach Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry at the beginning. Later on, as more teachers were on board, I just focussed on Physics," said Mr. Lee. Over these three decades, his interest in Physics has never faded. "From a young age, my interest was in things involving light, sound, movement and electricity. I wanted to be a scientist. Then when I was in the university, I realised that I was more inclined to training future scientists rather than being one myself. So, I chose to become a teacher," he explained.



Mr. Lee working on a test run of the teaching kit with F.6 students.

A very busy teacher indeed. Apart from class work, Mr. Lee is also heavily involved in helping to improve the school's lighting and sound systems, as well as being the technical consultant in all our drama productions. "It's a challenge every year to create new effects using limited resources. Nonetheless, the satisfaction is great. I enjoy working with Mr. Oliver and the students on drama," he said. "The girls really take pride in participating in the School Drama. It has already become a tradition," he added.

Talking about students, what does Mr. Lee think of students of different times? He thought for a while before he answered. "Times have changed and so have the students. Nowadays, students are more creative and expressive, but they lack the discipline and accountability found in students of the 80s. I enjoy teaching them all, though it is definitely more challenging now as students have a very busy schedule," he remarked.



Mr. Philip Lee & Mrs. Lee Hung Kapo in 1984 and 2010. Nothing much seems to have changed.

We were joined by Mrs. Kapo Lee, Mr. Lee's wife, at this juncture. Mrs. Lee has been our Chinese teacher since 1982. They got married in 1984, which was really big news at that time. "You know what? Both of us still have the same seats that we had when we first came to St. Mary's! And believe it or not, my seat in Staff Room A and Mrs. Lee's seat in Staff Room B are exactly in the same position," said Mr. Lee. "That makes a good story, doesn't it?" he grinned.

We then visited the Physics Lab on the third floor of the Magdalene Building with Mr. and Mrs. Lee. There were loads of equipment and tools, of which quite a few were Mr. Lee's inventions. Having been in charge of the lab for more than 30 years, Mr. Lee could tell stories about each and every big or small piece of equipment. But nothing was more surprising to us than seeing a "St. Mary's Kitchen" in one corner, with a line-up of appliances such as toasters and thermal pots.

"Many used appliances at home end up here," said Mrs. Lee. "Well, I took them back to school to demonstrate topics such as conduction, convection and conservation of energy," explained Mr. Lee. "See? One of those was the thermal flask I used during my first pregnancy! I'd like to keep it, but I'm also happy if it can help Mr. Lee teach," said Mrs. Lee. We saw how supportive they were to each other and to their students. Mr. Lee, you have indeed made St. Mary's a home away from home, thank you!



The "St. Mary's Kitchen" corner of the Physics Lab.

Class Reunion News

The **Class of 1960** celebrates their 50th anniversary in 2010 with a few functions. 15 participants joined the Thanksgiving Prayer meeting on 24 February in the school chapel, followed by a tour round the campus and dinner in the evening. Ten of them will go on a trip to Kunming from 14-17 November. They are now compiling an update list of 1960 Form 5 or 1962 Upper Six graduates. To reconnect, please contact Helen Chow at smcc60@hotmail.com.



The Class of 1960 on school campus during their reunion.

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.

The **Class of 1965** will celebrate their 45th anniversary in October 2010 in Hong Kong. A reunion dinner is scheduled on 26 October (Tue) with over 40 classmates joining from all over the world. The group also plans to visit the school on 30 October (Sat). Please contact Ella Yung May Ling 戎美玲 at yungmayling@hotmail.com for details.

St. Mary's 110th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

The St. Mary's PSA is delighted to organize the 110th Anniversary Celebration Dinner for our Alma Mater. This will be a great reunion opportunity for old friends, teachers and peers, and a memorable evening of warmth and fun with performances, lucky draw, games, gifts and souvenirs!

- Date** : 13 November 2010 (Sat)
Time : Reception 6 p.m. / Dinner 7 p.m.
Venue : Laguna Palace Restaurant (海逸皇宮大酒樓)
3/F, Fisherman's Wharf, 8 Laguna Verde Avenue, Hung Hom
Menu : Chinese style set dinner
Price : HK\$400 per ticket
Booking : Please fill in and return the following Reply Form latest by 31 October 2010



REPLY FORM

(You can also download this form from www.stmaryspsa.org)

Name: _____
Contact Tel: _____ Email Address: _____
PSA No. (if any): _____ Year of Form 5: _____

(A) Reservation Please where appropriate.

I would like to attend the Dinner and reserve the following seats:

<u>Ticket Price</u>	<u>Number of Seats</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
@HK\$400	_____	HK\$ _____

(Please reply before 31 October 2010)

1. Group booking is encouraged. Each table carries 12 seats.
2. Seating will be arranged on a first-come-first-served basis.
3. Reservation confirmation will be sent via email or telephone latest by 6 November 2010.
4. Please make the cheque crossed and payable to "St. Mary's Past Students' Association".

I would like to collect my ticket(s):

from the School Office
(recommended)

on site at the
Laguna Palace Restaurant

(B) Gift Sponsorship Please where appropriate.

I would also like to donate a gift/some gifts for lucky draw and/or table prizes.

Item: _____ X _____ pieces
Item: _____ X _____ pieces
Item: _____ X _____ pieces

1. Please reply before 15 October 2010 to allow time for necessary arrangements.
2. Kindly contact Ms. Queenie Cheng of the School Office at (852) 2724 2771 to arrange for collection.

(C) General Donation Please where appropriate.

I would like to make a separate donation in support of the St. Mary's Canossian College Development Fund. Enclosed is a cheque of _____.

Please tick here if a receipt for tax deduction purpose is required.

Name to be put on the receipt: _____

Cheque number: _____

Address for sending receipt:

1. Please make cheque crossed and payable to **"St. Mary's Canossian College"**.
2. Please specify at the back of the cheque that it is a donation for the "SMCC Development Fund".

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Kindly return this reply form together with your cheque(s) to
St. Mary's Past Students' Association, 162 Austin Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon

For enquiries - Email: activities@stmaryspsa.org Tel : (852) 2724 2771 Fax : (852) 2724 2719



Shop for souvenirs!



To celebrate the 110th Anniversary of our Alma Mater, the PSA has produced a new series of souvenirs for sale at the dinner. Do bring enough cash and go on an exciting shopping spree with your friends!

