



St. Mary's Past Students' Association

NEWSLETTER ♦ March 2011

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Email: stmaryspsa@gmail.com Website: www.stmaryspsa.org



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

Dear Alumnae,

With the passing of 2010, our 110th anniversary celebrations have also come to an end. But, it still gives me great pleasure to see that all our events had been so very successful, especially with the last and the most significant event in November, the PSA's own anniversary dinner, which had a turn-out rate of over 1,100 St. Marians, Sisters, teachers, friends and relatives!



Ms. Catherine Wong at the cake-cutting ceremony during the 110th Anniversary Dinner.

There was no extravaganza or fanciful display, but everyone I met agreed that it had been an extremely well-organized and heart-warming reunion dinner that rekindled the Canossian and St. Marian spirit! What an atmosphere to have over 1,100 faces, smiling, chatting and chirping, catching up and reminiscing over their good old days! What a sight to see St. Marians of all generations crowding round the stage, skipping on tip-toes and craning their necks like star-chasing little fans, unheeding to instructions, wanting just to take a picture of their beloved teachers who must have occupied such an important place in their hearts!



Sharing a moment with one of our most senior alumna & past teacher Mrs. Nydia Osmund Peirera ('35, front left) and her sister Dr. Irene Osmund Ruis ('45) at the 110th Anniversary Dinner.

All these had been made possible, thanks to the PSA Exco. Allow me to reiterate again my appreciation for our dear Exco members, who had sacrificed their time, meeting countless

times to make all the arrangements right, often working late hours to find sponsors for prizes, to produce the souvenirs, to discuss the rundown and to set up the venue, etc., etc.! May I call upon everyone to give them three cheers! Bravo and congratulations to our Exco members! And if you have missed the fun this time, make sure you don't miss it again next time!

Live St. Mary's forever more! God bless St. Mary's forever more!

Warmest regards,
Ms. Catherine Wong

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

Dear St. Marians,

It is universal expectation that education given in a school environment should be more than simply acquiring book knowledge to secure a successful career in the future. Another more important aim is to nurture positive values and a respectable character in students. These are indispensable qualities of future leaders and good citizens for our society. Fulfilling these needs is one of our school's missions.



Ms. Maria Cheung with students at the Christmas celebration.

Every time when our past students come back to visit, they will discover something different, either regarding the teaching staff or the school's physical environment. In the past decade, quite a number of experienced teachers had retired. You must have missed some of your beloved teachers when you discovered that they were no longer teaching in St. Mary's. You will also see changes in the learning environment and school policies. For instance, you used to study a subject called Health Education. From it, you acquired knowledge about good habits in hygiene, sports, diseases, body structure, etc. The subject is now cancelled, but several topics are merged into General Studies. At the same time, health issues have been given priority and regarded as part of our policies. Each pupil's diet and physical fitness are areas of our concern. Every morning we make sure that pupils have taken and recorded their body temperature properly before they come to school. They have to wash their hands right after their arrival and before lunch. As a result, you will find posters in the corridors reminding pupils to wash their hands.



The new generation of students are familiar with computers from a young age.

In addition, this generation is brought up with abundant exposure to the mass media and overwhelming usage of information technology. Students nowadays have no problem in handling computers or using the Internet to acquire new knowledge. However, exercising critical thinking or differentiating right from wrong is no easy task for them. To

make appropriate choices under peer influence is even more challenging. Every day, pupils spend a certain amount of time on Facebook or Chat Rooms. This attractive but fictitious world, which did not exist ten years ago, is now part of their daily lives. The mindset of teachers is also changing, as the pupils can now get more information on certain topics from the Internet than from their teachers. Teaching strategies and curriculum need to be renewed and improved. Communication skills and collaboration are given weight in project learning. We no longer assess pupils on marks alone.

New times produce new challenges. We do hope that without the pressure of Form One placement, our pupils will continue to keep their learning motivation high and strive for excellence under the guidance of teachers, who themselves are keeping pace with the ever evolving demands of a complex society.

Yours sincerely,
Ms. Maria Cheung

School News - Mentorship Programme 2010-2011



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

The Mentorship Programme 2010-11 continues to evolve. This year, the school has changed to the NSS curriculum and thus students from both F.5 and F.6 were eligible to join the programme. As there were too many eligible students, we adopted a voluntary approach for mentees to participate in the programme. We also encouraged mentors to join in pairs, so that they can support each other. In the end, we successfully invited a total of 51

mentors to take care of 142 students this year. Mentors in pairs were matched with groups of 5-6 mentees, forming 25 groups. The first meeting took place on 23 October 2010.



Mentors and mentees meeting in small groups.

Another new development this year is that a second meeting was scheduled on 26 February 2011 for organised activities, thereby creating one additional opportunity for mentors and mentees to meet. The 25 groups participated in team activities that allowed them to discover new things about their friends, and a mascot design competition to unleash their creativity. Throughout the year, informal meetings would also take place between mentors and mentees.



Teams dressed up their member as rabbits to compete in CNY Mascot Design competition.

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 News - Alumnae Book Presentation

A book presentation took place on campus on 13 November 2010 during which three alumnae from the Class of 1960 donated books to our school library. Authors Betty Chung and Myrna Siou donated their work *"Life Recipes from my Mother"* and *"步出悲痛-失去愛侶的心路歷程"* respectively, while Helen Chow donated the book *"Ng Po Wan - The Man & His Art"*, written in memory of Mrs. Esther Ng Tak-Ching, beloved wife of the artist and Helen's aunt, who was also a respected teacher of St. Mary's who taught here some fifty years ago. Students are now able to borrow these books from the library.



The book donors and the Class of 1960 were received in the school library by teachers and library prefects.

School News - 2011 School Drama "PanDora"

This year's sensation is a musical entitled "PanDora". The story, developed by students, is a new version of the famous Greek legend Pandora's Box. The play is produced and directed by Mr. Geoff Oliver and co-directed by Ms. Eudora Lee, with music composed by students and choreography by alumna Mary Mak.

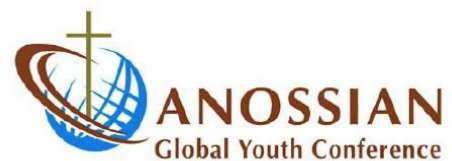


Performances will begin at 7 pm in the SMCC Hall on 11 April (Mon), 12 April (Tue), 14 April (Thu), 15 April (Fri, Gala Night) & 16 April (Sat), and will last about 2 hours 15 minutes including two intervals. Tickets are on sale from 1 March, priced at HK\$100*, HK\$180*, HK\$250 and HK\$500. For booking enquiries, please contact Ms. Queenie Cheng of the School Office at 2724 2771.

* Not available on 15 & 16 April

School News - Canossian Global Youth Conference 2011

The Canossian Global Youth Conference (CGYC) is a biennial leadership-training programme featuring cultural exchanges and formal discussions on pressing global issues among students of Canossian institutions all over the world. The week-long conference aims to promote global awareness of social issues whilst nurturing these future leaders to develop global perspective with local initiatives in the Canossian Spirit. It brings together bright and aspiring youths for exchanges of views and culture through negotiation and collaboration in working out solutions for specific issues.



Jointly organised by St. Mary's Canossian College and Sacred Heart Canossian College, the CGYC 2011 will be held in Hong Kong on 16-22 July, with Mrs. Anson Chan and Sr. Agnes Law as Honorary Patrons. Preparation work is already in progress. As CGYC is non profit-making and would like to keep conference fees as low as possible, HK\$350,000 has to be raised to meet the necessary expenses. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Ms. Queenie Cheng of the School Office at 2724 2771 or queeniecheng@smcc-canossian.org.



In Loving Remembrance...

Ms. Mary Tong, teacher of History and English Literature in the 1950s and 60s, passed away peacefully in Australia in February 2011. Our prayers go to Ms. Tong's family.

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



PSA News - 110th Anniversary Dinner

With the participation of over 1,100 alumnae, Canossian sisters, long serving teachers and retired teachers, we concluded our Alma Mater's 110th anniversary with a fabulous anniversary dinner held at the Laguna Palace Restaurant in Hung Hom on 13 November 2010. We were happy to have Sr. Marie Remedios, outstanding alumna and former Mother Superior General of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, to be our Guest of Honor of the evening, and to share with us some fond memories of her old school days in St. Mary's and the two convictions that have shaped her life during her 51 years as a religious sister.



Donations were collected during dinner for Canossian Missions Development.

It was truly a memorable and exciting evening. While the sales counters outside the dining hall were crowded with guests queuing up to purchase the specially designed commemorative souvenirs, past students inside the hall were busy catching up and taking photos with friends and teachers that they had not seen for a long time. Later in the evening, when participants rose to sing "Under a banner thoughts uplifting...", all hearts of St. Marians came together as one again. And to show our gratitude towards

the Canossian sisters who had nurtured us throughout the years, we had a donation drive to support the work of the Canossian Missions. Thanks to the zeal of past Headgirls Amanda Liu ('75), Teresa Chow ('77), Cecilla Li ('79), Linda So ('84), Elizabeth Tai ('90), Amy Mak ('88) and Katrina Ma ('08), HK\$100,000 was raised during the dinner.



The PSA Exco presented the HK\$100,000 cheque to Provincial Superior Sr. Cynthia Chan.

The floor turned chaotic when we tried to take group photos of special guests, sisters and teachers. Hundreds of students gathered in front of the stage, pointing countless cameras at those on stage. "So this is how movie stars feel like," teachers joked, dazzled by the constant bursts of flashlight. How many faces can you recognise?

SMPSA representatives, special guests, sisters and school managers of SMCC and SMCS



(Left to right) **Back row:** Ms. Annie Choi, Sr. Joanna Wong, Sr. Peggy Ip, Sr. Maria Lit, Ms. Justina Law, Mr. David Mong, Mr. Joseph Lee, Ms. Susanna Chung

Second row: Mr. Charley Chan, Ms. Yuen Wai Ching, Sr. Cecilia Lam, Ms. Maria Cheung, Sr. Cecilia Wong, Sr. Virginia Wong, Sr. Marie Remedios, Sr. Cynthia Chan, Ms. Catherine Wong, Sr. Susanna Yu, Sr. Theresa Chun, Mrs. Lucilla Yip, Sr. Maria Ho, Sr. Veronica Fok, Sr. Bernadette Lau

Front row: Sr. Ida Sala

Secondary School Teachers



(Left to right) Back row: Mr. Philip Lee, Mr. Henry Lo, Mr. Siu Yuk Cheung, Mr. Ma Chi Hung, Mr. Cyril Lee, Mr. Dominic Chan, Dr. Marina Wong, Ms. Candy To, Ms. Berenice Lau, Ms. Caroline Kwan, Ms. Tammy Yeung
Third row: Ms. Irene Yau, Mrs. Kapo Lee, Mrs. Marilyn Yau, Ms. Clare Pedron, Ms. Philomena Ho, Mrs. Lau Wu Siu Lan, Ms. Helena Kung, Ms. Mabel Mak, Ms. Catherine Wong, Mrs. Edith Tong, Ms. Amelia Tsang, Ms. Viola Chan, Ms. Jane Lau, Ms. Erminia Ho
Second row: Mrs. Emily Wong, Mr. Geoff Oliver, Mrs. Winnie Hung, Mrs. Teresa Wong, Mrs. Simmy Wong, Mrs. Catherine Ho, Ms. Elizabeth Fung, Ms. Gina So, Ms. Sally Kwan, Mrs. Shirley Yip
Front row: Sr. Ida Sala

Primary School Teachers



(Left to right) Back row: Mrs. Christine Ng, Mrs. Jennifer Chan, Mrs. M.Y. Wong, Mrs. Lucia Huen
Third row: Mrs. Sarah Tchiang, Mrs. Patsy Leung, Mrs. Ivy To, Mrs. Winifred Kam, Mrs. Regina Chan, Ms. Linda Lau, Ms. Frances Au-Yeung, Ms. P.C. Chan
Second row: Ms. Praxedes Law, Mrs. Amy Sze, Mrs. Gabriella Loo, Mrs. Florence Mak, Ms. Anne Mok, Mrs. Patricia Lo, Mrs. Theresa Kan, Mrs. Alice Wong, Mrs. Rebecca Chan, Mrs. Josephine Chan
First row: Ms. Elizabeth Cheng, Ms. Maria Cheung, Sr. Cecilia Wong, Sr. Maria Lit, Sr. Goretti Wong, Sr. Virginia Wong, Mrs. May Lee, Mrs. Annie Lau, Mrs. Betsy Yu, Mrs. Mary Li

Here is a big thank you to all guests and workers who had helped to make the dinner a success.
Please continue to support our Alma Mater and the PSA!

For more photos of the event, please visit the SMPSA website at www.stmaryspsa.org

Speech of Sr. Marie Remedios, Guest of Honour at the St. Mary's 110th Anniversary Dinner

Good evening everyone, Sisters, teachers, St. Marians, friends,

I am very happy to be here this evening to share with you some memories of our school days. My family has a record of 3 generations of St. Marians: my mother, my elder sister, Mrs. Ena Maher and myself, and then the third generation of my two nieces. St. Mary's, in those days, while giving importance to a sound academic education, also encouraged participation in extracurricular activities, stressing the aspect of service to others. That's how I became the first tiny President of Christ Crusaders Association in the Primary School (under Mother Adolfa), and a member of the Legion of Mary, the Girl Guides and the School Choir, in the Secondary. I don't know how we girls managed with the time, but we found that it was always possible to do more. Probably life was much simpler in those days, and less stressful than it is now.



Sr. Marie Remedios with SMCS School Supervisor Sr. Virginia Wong (left) and SMCC School Supervisor Sr. Cynthia Chan (right) at the cake-cutting ceremony.



Sr. Marie shared her words of wisdom with the audience.

I studied at St. Mary's from Kindergarten to Form 7, and at a very young age already felt the call of the Lord to follow Him more closely in religious life. Because of this call and the deep Christian and moral formation that was imparted to me during my formative years at school, and also the inspiring example of many of our dear Mothers: Mother Mary, Ida, Piera, Angela, Egle, Erminia and others, even of many excellent lay teachers, I found the grace immediately after my Matriculation exams, to enter

the Canossian Novitiate, which used to be on the sixth floor of the existing Primary School building. For this reason, understandably, I never joined the Past Students Association. That is why, when I was invited to say a few words to you at this reunion, I initially declined, clearly aware that I am almost a total stranger to most of you.

At the end, however, I agreed to share with you today, in a simple way, two convictions that have shaped my life during my 51 years as a Religious Sister, with the hope also of re-connecting with some of my former class-mates if any of them are here today, and getting to know the rest of you, seeing that we had been nurtured by the same Mother School.



Sr. Marie was pleased to reunite with her school friends to celebrate over half a century of friendship.

The first conviction is that: everything passes all too quickly, except the values that have been instilled into our lives from our early years. The 110th Anniversary of our School has already become history; ...our carefree years at school...our difficulties, successes, failures... even our 20th, 30th or 40th Anniversary of Graduation...Everything has passed or will pass away soon enough! Appreciations, titles, responsible jobs, are all wonderful things, for the moment they last. But even these are transient. What remains of lasting value and gives us true peace, is the fact that we have lived these moments fully, with love and integrity.

The only precious thing we have that is really ours, is the power of choosing how we want to live the present moment, no matter at what stage of life we may be in. To choose to do or not to do something, to love or not to love – this alone is within our power to create something that really lasts and that gives value to our lives. Yes, we can do it. We can make a difference if we want to, because we hold the key of happiness in our own hands. So it is really up to us to create this happiness and peace of soul with the help of prayer and God's grace.



Do you remember when we were kids, how the Mothers used to do invigilation during recess and lunch-time? Every now and then, the Sister would stop one of us and ask: "Do you want to make a little sacrifice for Jesus? Pick up that piece of paper from the floor and throw it into the rubbish bin." Then when we did that, we got a pat on the head. We could have run away and not pick up the paper, or could have done it with anger, or do it for Jesus, with love. It is just as simple as that: just choosing to do a very small thing out of love for the Lord, or to make someone else happy. After over 50 years, I still remember this teaching and have tried to form such a habit in my own life.

So, dear friends, whenever life becomes really stressful and taxing, it is important to remind ourselves of this encouraging fact that all things will soon pass away! Perfection has yet to come, and failures are really precious opportunities to learn something new every day!

The second conviction that has sustained me in life is that God knows everything about us, and He does have a wonderful plan for each one of us. I don't know how firmly we believe that He is really present in our lives? Most of the time, we cannot control or change many situations in our life, and so many other things that seem to spoil our happiness. But it is most consoling to have the conviction that, if we allow the Lord to stick around in our lives, everything will soon turn out right for us, precisely because He loves us and knows what is best for us.



St. Paul the Apostle assures us with these comforting words: *nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, neither death nor life....nor our failings or mistakes, nor any power or created thing whatsoever.* That is why he could consider everything as rubbish....except the joy of knowing the Lord.

Even our School Motto: "Cor Unum, Via Una", reminds us that there is only "one heart and one way", the "one heart, is a heart that loves, and the "one way" is the way that leads to goodness.

Dear St. Marians and friends, may our 110th Anniversary Reunion tonight be an encouragement for us to go on living according to these values that have been instilled into us during our school days. I am sure that this will be the secret of our inner peace and joy, a legacy of wisdom that we want to leave behind to the following generations of St. Marians, just as we had received it from the St. Marians who have gone before us.

I wish to conclude with St. Paul's exhortation to the people of Corinth: "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all for the glory of God." (I Cor.10:31). So, I suggest that we take his good advice and get on with our banquet tonight, in a joyful spirit and without further ado! Thank for listening and God bless you all!

Class Reunion News

The **Class of 1965** celebrated their 45th anniversary in October 2010 in Hong Kong. A reunion dinner was held on 26 October (Tue) with over 40 classmates joining from all over the world. Some classmates also went for a campus tour on 30 October (Sat). Please contact Ella Yung May Ling 戎美玲 at yungmayling@hotmail.com to reconnect.



The class of 1965 visited their alma mater during their reunion.

The **St. Mary's Canossian College Alumni Association (Ontario)** celebrated the 110th anniversary of their Alma Mater on 2 October 2010 in Toronto with a Mass in the afternoon and dinner reception in the evening. There were 13 tables of alumnae and friends, with Sr. Esther Ling joining as special guest. Please contact Katherine Hauw at jao2504@sympatico.ca to reconnect.



Sr. Esther Ling (centre) at the cake-cutting ceremony during the SMCC 110th Anniversary Dinner in Toronto

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 membershipsec@stmaryspsa.org.

Notice of the 2011 Annual General Meeting of St. Mary's Past Students' Association

Date : 26 March 2011 (Saturday)
Time : 3:30 pm
Venue : Geography Room,
2/F Marian Building,
St. Mary's Canossian College

Agenda

- 1. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting held on 20 March 2010**
- 2. Chairman's Report**
- 3. Adoption of the Financial Report for the last financial year ending 31 August 2010**
- 4. Election of Executive Committee 2011-2013**
- 5. Any Other Business**

Note: Proxy Forms and Nomination Forms can be downloaded from www.stmaryspsa.org.

All members are welcome.

St. Mary's 110th Anniversary Souvenirs

For those who did not manage to attend the 110th Anniversary Dinner, here is your chance to purchase our anniversary souvenirs! These items were so popular that there was a long queue at the sales counter throughout the dinner! To purchase, please fill in the Order Form and send it to Ms. Queenie Cheng of the School Office. You can also enjoy the **anniversary set offer at only HK\$300** (excluding the pen), and save HK\$40! All net proceeds will go to the SMCC Development Fund.



School Uniform Figurines

Unit price: HK\$160

A must-have item for collectors...evolution of our school uniform, each uniquely designed!

- set of 12 summer & winter uniforms from the 1910's to the present day
- primary and secondary school versions
- soft PVC figurines with individual hooks
- can use as keyholder or phone strap charms
- box with clear window for display

Canvas Tote Bag

Unit price: HK\$60

Great for everyday use, don't leave home without it!

- beige canvas with black cloth straps
- water resistant inside layer
- small pocket inside
- fits A4 size documents
- features the main building and lyrics of the school song



Document Bags Set

Unit price: HK\$60

Home for small and large items, including newspapers!

- nylon bags with zipper
- A6, A5, A4 and F4 size
- in red, white, yellow, blue, the house colours
- features the school emblem

Luggage Tag & Belt Set

Unit price: HK\$60

Spot your luggage at a glance!

- thick soft PVC tag with school motto in English
- strong nylon belt with school motto in Latin



USB Ballpen **(SOLD OUT!)**

Unit price: HK\$160

- with 4GB memory flash drive
- features the school emblem
- white / black / blue

St. Mary's 110th Anniversary Souvenirs

Order Form – Hong Kong

You can also download the form from www.stmaryspsa.org

To: **Ms Queenie Cheng** (Fax: 2724 2719 / Email: queeniecheng@smcc-canossian.org)

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone No.: _____

Membership No.: _____ Year of Form 5: _____

I'd like to order the following souvenirs. (Goods are available while stocks last.)

Item	Unit Price (HK\$)	Quantity	Total (HK\$)
1. Canvas Tote Bag	\$60		\$
2. Document Bags Set	\$60		\$
3. Luggage Tag & Belt Set	\$60		\$
4. School Uniform Figurines	\$160		\$
5. Anniversary Set (includes items 1-4)	\$300 (saves \$40)		\$
<p>Please indicate your payment method:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pay by cash at the office during collection <i>Please fax this Order Form to Ms Queenie Cheng to register your order first.</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pay by cheque sent with this Order Form <i>Please make the cheque payable to "St. Mary's Past Students' Association" and send it together with this form to St. Mary's Past Students' Association, 162 Austin Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon. (Attention to Ms Queenie Cheng)</i></p>			HK\$ _____

I'll come to the school office to collect the items on:

Date	Weekday	Time
_____ / _____ / _____ Day Month Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/> 0830-1030 <input type="checkbox"/> 1030-1230 <input type="checkbox"/> 1230-1430 <input type="checkbox"/> 1430-1630
	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/> 0900-1030 <input type="checkbox"/> 1030-1200

IMPORTANT: We would like to make sure that the items are ready for collection when you arrive. Please call Ms Queenie Cheng of the School Office at 2724 2771 to confirm receipt of your order. Moreover, we request that you come to collect the items at the date and time specified to minimize unnecessary work for the School Office. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, you cannot come, please contact Ms Queenie Cheng at least one day in advance to make alternative arrangements. Thank you for your cooperation.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

St. Mary's 110th Anniversary Souvenirs

Order Form - Overseas

You can also download the form from www.stmaryspsa.org

To: **Ms Queenie Cheng** (Fax: 2724 2719 / Email: queeniecheng@smcc-canossian.org)
Name: _____
Email: _____ Phone No.: _____
Membership No.: _____ Year of Form 5: _____

I'd like to order the following souvenirs. (Goods are available while stocks last.)

Item	Unit Price (HK\$)	Quantity	Total (HK\$)
1. Canvas Tote Bag	\$60		\$
2. Document Bags Set	\$60		\$
3. Luggage Tag & Belt Set	\$60		\$
4. School Uniform Figurines	\$160		\$
5. Anniversary Set (includes items 1-4)	\$300 (saves \$40)		\$
Price of Goods			HK\$

I'd like to have the souvenirs mailed to the following address:

(please write in BLOCK LETTERS)

I'd like to have the goods shipped to me:

By air parcel

(takes about 1-3 weeks)

By surface parcel

(takes about 1-2 months)

Please email this completed form to Ms Queenie Cheng at queeniecheng@smcc-canossian.org for a quotation on shipping fees. You can also refer to the SMPSA website for a rough guideline on shipping charges. Payment should only be sent upon confirmation of goods availability and shipping fees.

Signature: _____ Date: _____