



St. Mary's Past Students' Association

NEWSLETTER ♦ March 2012

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

Dear Alumnae,

Our 111th anniversary on 11.11.11 at 11.11 a.m. called for a celebration, and we did celebrate this special event in a very special way. Though simple, it was momentous and the girls surely will remember the day for the rest of their lives! It came as a treat from your very own PSA and you'd find more coverage in this newsletter.



St. Mary's is 111 year-old, ancient and has a lot of antique value, but, we nonetheless move with time to stay abreast. The mode of teaching and learning is very different from the days when you were in school, even though you may have graduated just a few years earlier. Fifteen years after the return of sovereignty to China, all schools now see more emphasis on National Education. On campus last academic year, forums, board displays and talks enlightened our F.4 and 5 students on how they should prepare themselves for the future. Outside the classroom, six study trips had been organized to various parts of China including Shanghai, Beijing, Pearl River Delta, Shaoguan, Zhaoqing, Foshan, Xinhui, Yunan and Hebei. Each of these trips had a different focus, covering socio-economical, sports, geographical or ecological aspects, and served as valuable learning experiences offering insights beyond the textbooks.



Students on a study trip in Guangzhou.

In line with our spirit of life-long learning, let's keep up with St. Marians together! God bless!

Peace and Joy,
Ms. Catherine Wong

Thank you for your continuous support to the PSA. The Exco wishes you and your family a Happy Year of the Dragon!



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

Dear St. Marians,

Of all the different kinds of experiences in our life, festive celebration plays a very important role, particularly in our childhood. Year after year, event after event, our brain stores many happy memories like tasting exclusive festive foods and receiving gifts from others. In turn, we learn how to reciprocate, and appreciate different cultural activities.

We had an official celebration for Christmas this past December. It consisted of the liturgy, performances by the drama group and music groups, lucky draw by Santa Claus, and various games and activities conducted by teachers in classrooms. Every year, teachers of the organizing team spend weeks in preparation for this event. They would recruit a number of pupils to assist in the liturgical celebration, and some others to perform the Christmas story. The pupils who are chosen to participate in the performance would not forget this new experience. The spectacular costumes, traditional Christmas carols, and glittering decorations are essential elements which would form part of their happy childhood memories associated with the celebration of Christmas.



Santa Claus is coming to.....the classroom!

In a similar way, we organized the Chinese Cultural Day activities to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Pupils were allowed to dress in their traditional New Year outfits on that day. I gave each pupil a red packet filled with candies. To make the celebration more impressive, we invited experts to demonstrate folk art, and organized the game of guessing riddles at various levels. The pupils found these activities interesting and full of fun.



Pupils were amazed by the traditional lion dance performance during the Chinese New Year Cultural Day celebration.

Without doubt, the most unique event for the past year was the 111th Celebration we had on 11th November at 11:11 a.m. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Past Students' Association for initiating and organizing such a special and interesting function for St. Mary's. It was definitely a memorable event for our pupils, not only

sharing the ice popsicles, but more important, sharing the experience and joy of the whole family, especially in the company of the respected and dedicated alumnae. I am absolutely sure that, without your coordination and generous support, the celebration could not be realized.

Peace and abundant blessings, good health and happiness to you, your loved ones, and your families!

Maria Cheung

PSA News - Alumnae Day 2011

More than 40 past students and their friends and families joined our Alumnae Day outing to Lamma Island on Sunday, 27 November 2011.

It was a beautiful morning and the group gathered at the pier in front of the Cultural Centre in Tsimshatsui at 11 a.m. to board the ferry to Sok Kwu Wan, Lamma Island. After a fabulous seafood lunch at Rainbow Seafood Restaurant, the



The group had the opportunity to learn about different kinds of sea creatures.



Have you ever seen a fish with wings?



Close encounters with starfish - a big one and a tiny one!

group took another boat to the Lamma Fishermen's Village. Staff at the Village introduced to the group a variety of fishes and sea creatures found around Hong Kong waters, including starfish, crabs, sea cucumbers, stingrays, urchins and many others.

We were even allowed "hands on" experience with some of these creatures! We then had the opportunity to examine a traditional fishing boat, learning how life would have been in the past. Following that, we tried our luck in the unique "hookless fishing" game. Everyone was provided with a rod with the bait tied to a piece of string on one end. If you're lucky, you can catch a fish just like that!



I've got it! I've got it!! Oh...missed again!!

After visiting the village, we returned to Sok Kwu Wan for some more shopping, and then ferried back to Tsimshatsui by 5 p.m. What a pleasant day out with our alumnae from different years!!



The group posed for a snapshot outside the Hong Kong Cultural Centre after returning to Tsimshatsui. What a memorable day!

Celebrating 111 on 11.11.11 at 11:11 in 1 Heart 1 Way

The 11th day of the 11th month in the 11th year of the new millennium was indeed a special day, especially to those in St. Mary's! That morning, students, teachers, staff and sisters from both SMCC and SMCS were given a special treat by the Past Students' Association. The 2,000 of them gathered in the playground and were treated with twin popsicles that resembled the number "11". Counting down to 11:11 a.m., we all sang the school song and celebrated the 111th anniversary of St. Mary's in total unison. What a memorable moment!

Thanks to the help of the two principals, we managed to keep the event a secret until the day of revelation. It was amazing to see so many happy faces all at one time. This also happened to be the first time that all students and staff of both schools gathered together for a common purpose.

We thank everyone who had helped to make this a reality. Most of all, we thank God for the wonderful weather that day, and the blessing and guidance He bestowed on our Alma Mater throughout the years. Live St. Mary's ever more!



Primary and secondary students and staff celebrating this special occasion together with popsicle in hand...happy 111th birthday St. Mary's!



A cheerful hi from all of us here!



One heart and one way.



Excited students couldn't wait to savour the sweet treat!



PSA exco members and the principals during the countdown.



The first time we saw such a big gathering of students and staff!



Some more 11.11.11 moments to share...



Students enjoying their popsicles.



The janitors also took a happy break of popsicle fun!



Two thousand St. Marians singing the school song together!



Congratulations to the winners of the lucky draw.



View from another angle.



The principals and PSA Exco members.

PSA Update - Membership Database

We now have an active database of 5,290 members, spanning 10 countries. Among them, 4,368 are contactable via email, and 3,509 have opted to receive the newsletter by email.

Please note that information in our database may be shared with the school, or released to reunion organizers on request.

If you do not want your information to be shared, please inform our Membership Secretary at membershipsec@stmaryspsa.org.

Year of Graduation (F5)	No. of Members
1930-39	2
1940-49	4
1950-59	85
1960-69	299
1970-79	451
1980-89	544
1990-99	1,520
2000-present	2,385
Total	5,290

Notice of the 2012 Annual General Meeting of St. Mary's Past Students' Association

Date : 17 March 2012 (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 2011 Annual General Meeting held on 26 March 2011
2. Chairman's Report
3. Adoption of the Financial Report for the last financial year ending 31 August 2011
4. Any Other Business

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

All members are welcome.

Want to make donations to our Alma Mater?

We often receive enquiries from past students about making donations to St. Mary's. On behalf of the school, we thank you in advance for your generosity. Donations can be made to the St. Mary's Canossian College Development Fund to support campus, students and teachers development.



You can prepare a cheque payable to "St. Mary's Canossian College", marking SMCC Development Fund at the back. If a receipt for tax deduction purpose is required, please also indicate the name to be put on the receipt and the address for mailing. For further enquiries, please contact Ms. Queenie Cheng of the School Office at 2724 2771. Thank you.



In Loving Remembrance...

Ms. Teresita Botelho, graduate of 1959, passed away in October 2011 in Vancouver, Canada. Ms. Botelho was an accomplished pianist who had performed in Europe and the Far East as a soloist, accompanist and chamber musician. She was head of piano studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong for 18 years before migrating to Canada. Our prayers go to Ms. Botelho and her family.



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

School News – School Drama 2012

Attention drama fans! The 2012 performance "Mrs. Baggins" will be coming to the stage during the Drama Week in late April.

The play is an adaptation of the famous children's fantasy novel "The Hobbit" written by J.R.R. Tolkien in 1937. It is produced and directed by Mr. Geoff Oliver and co-directed by Ms. Eudora Lee, with music composed by our students.



Performances will begin at 7 pm in the SMCC Hall on 23 April (Mon), 24 April (Tue), 26 April (Thu), 27 April (Fri, Gala Night) & 28 April (Sat), and will last about 2 hours 30 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 27 & 28 April

Class Reunion News

The **Class of 1961** celebrated their 50th anniversary in November 2011 in Hong Kong. They shared their sweet and fond memories of being part of St. Mary's by visiting the school campus and Sister Ida. They then extended their celebration by having a reunion dinner and a cruise to Singapore. Please contact Theresa Cheung at tcheungsss@yahoo.com to reconnect.



The class of 1961 visited Sr Ida at the Caine Road convent

The **Class of 1971** had their 40th anniversary reunion in 2011 in Hong Kong. Classmates flew in from Australia, US and Canada and a visit to their Alma Mater was organized on 23 December, followed by a reunion dinner in the evening. A two-day trip to Hoi Ping was also part of the group's activities. Please contact Georgiana Tsoi at georgianatsoi@yahoo.com.au to reconnect.



The Class of 1971 was greeted by School Principal Ms Catherine Wong during their campus visit.

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.



Opt to receive soft copies of the PSA Newsletter?



To help save paper and administrative costs, we encourage members with email access to opt for receiving electronic versions of the PSA newsletter. Please email the Membership Secretary at membershipsec@stmaryspsa.org if you'd like to opt not to receive the hard copy. Thank you in advance.