



St. Mary's Past Students' Association

NEWSLETTER September 2015

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Message from the Exco –

Farewell to Ms. Catherine Wong, and a warm welcome to Ms. Janet Wong!



Ms. Catherine Wong (left) with new School Principal of SMCC, Ms. Janet Wong (right)

After 18 years of service at St. Mary's Canossian College, our Patron Ms. Catherine Wong, School Principal of SMCC, started a new page in her life as she retired in August. Ms. Wong had been very supportive to the Past Students' Association, and we are deeply grateful for her assistance. While we congratulate Ms. Wong on her retirement, we also welcome her successor Ms. Janet Wong, who was previously the School Principal of St. Joan of Arc Secondary School. Ms. Janet Wong grew up as a Canossian girl since kindergarten, enabling her to have a deep understanding of the Canossian spirit and culture.

We had the chance to have a chat with the two Ms. Wongs at the start of the

new academic year. "I couldn't believe that I actually woke up naturally at 10:07am on 1 September," said Ms. Catherine Wong with a laugh. "It felt unreal, but I'm enjoying myself. I now have the time to go through the books and CDs that I've put aside for ages, and I'm planning to go on some trips with my family," Ms. Wong revealed. "I am happy that I can pass the baton to the capable hands of Ms. Janet Wong. I'm certain that Ms. Wong will continue to work closely with Ms. Maria Cheung, Headmistress of SMCS, to unite and inspire all St. Marians past and present in the footsteps of our Foundress. Please give her the same support that you've always given me," she added.

"I must thank Ms. Catherine Wong and all teachers and St. Marians for having set down such solid foundations within the school," said Ms. Janet Wong. "In the short time that I've been here, I'm impressed by the diligence and motivation of the teachers and students. I'm indeed thrilled and honoured to have the chance to be part of this great legacy," she added. "I sincerely look forward to meeting our alumnae and learning more from them in the future!"

Ms. Catherine Wong has a few words for all of us, "I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to all past St. Marians. Your love for your Alma Mater has always touched me deeply. I've been blessed by the support from all of you, and I'm really thankful. I wish you and your families all the best, and I look forward to seeing you again at future PSA activities!"

All the best to you both, Ms. Catherine Wong and Ms. Janet Wong. Live St. Mary's ever more!



Ms. Catherine Wong gave her best wishes to our two Patrons Ms. Maria Cheung and Ms. Janet Wong for the new school year.

School News - Mentorship Programme 2014-15

The Mentorship Programme entered its eleventh year in the past academic year. The programme has been a means for past St. Marians to share their life experience and professional knowledge with students who are in their second last year of secondary school life. Through this sharing, we help our younger sisters to better prepare for their further studies and career choices.



Mentors and mentees in the 2014-15 programme.



Having fun in group activities.



In the 2014-15 academic year, 52 past girls signed up as mentors to guide 155 mentees. The kickoff ceremony was held on 8 November 2014 for mentors and mentees to make acquaintance and plan ahead for the year. Following that, an activity day was held on 28 March 2015 with group activities and careers seminar sessions, during which over 10 past girls joined hands to give solid career guidance in selected fields to meet the interest of mentees.

The school would like to extend her sincere gratitude to all mentors who have generously contributed their expertise and time to guide and nurture younger St. Marians. Past students who are interested in participating in this Mentorship Programme may contact Ms. Queenie Cheng at 2724 2771 for further information.



Getting to know each other in group discussions.



Sharing from mentors in careers seminars.

PSA News - St. Mary's 115th Anniversary Dinner

The St. Mary's 115th Anniversary Dinner is just around the corner. Get ready for a boisterous evening with classmates and teachers for some endless laughter and fun, flashlights and cheers! A big thanks to you all for the overwhelming support — all the tables were fully booked within a short time. We sincerely look forward to meeting you at the dinner!



Date: 3 October 2015 (Sat)

Time: 2:30-5:30pm Open Campus for School Visit*
6:00pm Dinner Reception**
7:00pm Dinner Starts**

Venue: Palace (煌府), 13/F, The One, 100 Nathan Road, Tsimshatsui



All confirmations have already been sent by email or phone. Please remember to pick up your tickets at your selected pick up points - for school office, 8:30am-5:00pm, 29-30 September, (avoiding lunch hour from 1pm-2pm); for restaurant, after 6pm on the event day.

** Please enter the school via the Kimberly Road entrance. Parking space is not available for visitors.*

*** Please arrive earlier at The One to avoid long wait at the elevators.*

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 the electronic version of the PSA newsletter instead. Please contact the Membership Secretary at membershipsec@stmaryspsa.org if you'd like to help us out and opt not to receive the mailed copy. Thank you in advance.

School News - 115th Anniversary SMCS Variety Show

On 23 June 2015, St. Mary's Canossian School held a Variety Show at the Academic Community Hall at Hong Kong Baptist University to celebrate the 115th anniversary of the school. The celebration provided an opportunity to showcase the diversity in our students' talents and achievements. The opening songs performed by the choir members brought exuberance to the audience, followed by some wonderful instrumental performance and orchestral music which enriched the show with jubilation.



Performance from the school choir.

St. Marians also demonstrated their solid and all-rounded language abilities: the impressive performance in the English drama "Princess Impossible", the fluency in the Mandarin solo verse speaking, and the tight collaboration in the Cantonese shadow puppetry show. Our younger sisters are certainly living up to the reputation of St. Marians being eloquently multilingual and smoothly cooperative!

Approaching the end of the show, parents who are past St. Marians were invited on stage to take a group photo with the teachers and students. It is a heart-warming moment to see so many of our old girls and teachers pass the torch of St. Marian spirit to the next generation.

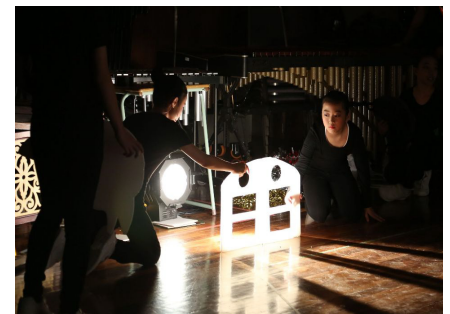
We are pleased to realise that not only are the teachers of St. Mary's Canossian School committed to sustaining students' academic results, they are also nurturing their versatility with unyielding determination, providing our younger sisters with all kinds of "nutrients" to become charismatic all-rounders. A big thank you to all the teachers, and congratulations again to everyone for such a meaningful and entertaining evening!



English drama "Princess Impossible".



While the shadow puppetry show was seen on front stage...



...a lot is happening at back stage!



Young St. Marians playing in the orchestra.



Guests and performers on stage at the grand finale.

School News - 115th Anniversary School Concert “Tutti 115”



*Soprano solo by
Dr. Michelle Tsui.*



*Composers of the 115th
anniversary song “A Place
Like Home”, Ms. Vansie
Kwok (left) and
Ms. Esther Ng (right).*



*Violin concerto by
Ms. Agnes Tse.*



The St. Mary's Canossian College Dance Team.

The 115th Anniversary School Concert – “Tutti 115” was successfully held on 29 June 2015 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. “Tutti” is an Italian word meaning “all”, as in “altogether”. Over a three-hour period with over 600 performers, the audience was treated to a whole range of musical performance by the SMCC School Orchestra, the Concert Band, the Chinese Orchestra, the Percussion Ensemble, the Dance Team, the School Choirs of SMCC and SMCS, together with guest performances from the SMCC Alumni Choir, the Holy Angels Canossian School Choir, the Queen’s College Wind Band, the Wah Yan College Kowloon Boys’ Choir, and the Wah Yan College Kowloon Old Boys’ Choir. The audience was also treated to the amazing talents of our past St. Marians – the touching soprano solo by Dr. Michelle Tsui, the energetic violin concerto by Ms. Agnes Tse, and the inspiring 115th anniversary song “A Place Like Home”, composed by Ms. Vansie Kwok and Ms. Esther Ng.

Applause thundered the concert hall at the end of every outstanding performance, especially for the concluding song “You Raise Me Up”. This music not only brought us a sense of cohesion and passion to our Alma Mata, it also marked the retirement of our beloved School Principal, Ms. Catherine Wong. The beautiful music and harmony echoed throughout the auditorium, complimenting the students, alumnae and guest performers on stage, and all those who worked laboriously behind the scene to make this event a success. Finally, special thanks and appreciation to the dynamic leadership of music teachers Ms. Viola Chan and Ms. Erminia Ho. Congratulations again to all St. Marians!



All performers gathered on stage for the School Song during grand finale.

School News - School Drama “The Gift”

Unlike past performances which were usually light in tone, drama fans this year were treated to a more serious story about the meaning and the gift of life during the Drama Week in April. The play “The Gift” is an original musical written by Lo Ban, Mr. Geoff Oliver, to commemorate the 115th anniversary of our Alma Mater, as an inspiration not only to students, but also to parents. All lyrics of the 16 original songs in the play are written by Mr. Geoff Oliver, with music composed by students and Ms. Eudora Lee.

Under the guidance of Mr. Oliver, Ms. Lee and the faculties, the cast and production team of 140 students gave powerful and impressive performances every evening and brought huge rounds of applause from the audience who were encouraged to contemplate the status quo. “The Gift” is the 31st play and 15th original musical written and produced in St. Mary’s by Mr. Oliver. Thank you again Lo Ban, and as always, we are already looking forward to the next performance!



HAPPY RETIREMENT !

The end of the 2014-15 academic year also marked the retirement of the following teachers and staff:

SMCC

- Ms. Catherine Wong, School Principal, after 18 years of service
- Ms. Candy To, Assistant Principal, after 34 years of service
- Ms. Jane Lau, Mathematics teacher, after 24 years of service

SMCS

- Mrs. Lucia Huen, Mathematics teacher, Red Cross leader, after 33 years of service
- Ms. Bernadette Lau, office clerk, after 41 years of service. Ms. Lau is also a past St. Marian who studied at St. Mary’s since secondary school.

On behalf of all past St. Marians, we sincerely thank these teachers and staff for their dedication, care and love throughout the years. May God bless them and grant them a fruitful and happy retirement life!



Ms. Catherine Wong



Ms. Candy To



Ms. Jane Lau



Mrs. Lucia Huen



Ms. Bernadette Lau

School News - Canossian Global Youth Conference 2015



Group activities to experience poverty.

The Canossian Global Youth Conference 2015 (CGYC 15) was successfully held during 20-24 July this year. Jointly organised by a team of St. Marians and Sacred Heartists who are interested in humanity and international relations, it is a leadership training programme featuring cultural exchanges, experiential learning and presentations, while fostering the Canossian spirit of charity and humility.



Participants engaged in cross-cultural discussions.

More than 88 Canossian youths from Canossian institutes in East Timor, the Philippines, Malawi, Malaysia, Italy, India, Macau and Hong Kong participated in the conference. The theme was “Poverty”, a theme specifically chosen by the organizers to raise the awareness of young Canossians towards this prevailing global issue, inspiring them to make effort to ease the situation with the Canossian spirit.



Enchanting performances on Cultural Night.

The organizers of CGYC 15 would like to thank the SMPSA and the many past St. Marians who generously offered their advice and financial support to bring the conference to fruition. We are delighted to see our younger sisters taking up such leadership roles and making the event a success. In God’s love let’s live and pass on the Canossian spirit of Charity and Humility.

Alumni Managers for the IMCs of SMCC and SMCS (2015-17)



*Ms. Angela Liu,
Alumni Manager for the
IMC of SMCC,
2015-2017*



*Ms. Angela Leung,
Alumni Manager for the
IMC of SMCS,
2015-2017*

The election of Alumni Managers for the Incorporated Management Committees (IMCs) of St. Mary’s Canossian College (SMCC) and St. Mary’s Canossian School (SMCS) was held by the Council of SMCC and Council of SMCS of the SMPSA respectively. Nomination took place from 27 June to 11 July 2015, and two alumnae, Ms. Angela Liu, SMCC graduate in 19xx, and Ms. Angela Leung, SMCS graduate in 19xx, were elected uncontested to be the Alumni Managers of the respective schools. The term of service will be two years, ending August 2017. Both Ms. Liu and Ms. Leung were also school managers during the previous term from 2013 to 2015. We thank them for their love and continuous commitment to their Alma Mater.

Alumnae News – Serving God through “Marians in Faith”



“Marians in Faith” is a newly established religious group organized by a group of Catholic past St. Marians.

“Marians in Faith” is set up to keep our Catholic faith growing throughout our life journey. Our School Motto is “Cor Unum et Via Una”, meaning “One Heart and One Way”. “One Heart” signifies Jesus’ heart of perfect love, wisdom and compassion, while “One Way” indicates the Gospel way of truth and fullness of life. St. Marians, all united in spirit and action, pledge to walk together in God’s love along the way of Gospel truth.

“Marians in Faith” is a platform to remind all of us the unconditional love of Jesus by introducing and organizing religious services and activities. The group will organize Holy Mass and religious seminars in the coming future. Past St. Marians are welcome to join the community by liking the Facebook page “Marians in Faith”, and are encouraged to spread God’s love to one another by inviting family members, schoolmates and friends to join the activities.

For further information, please refer to the group’s Facebook page.



Scan the QR code to visit the Facebook page, or access www.facebook.com/mariansinfaith.

Alumnae News – Class Year Reunions

The *Class of 1965* celebrated their 50th anniversary in Toronto Canada in May 2015, followed by a reunion cruise to the Caribbean together with friends and family, sharing joyful memories of friendship and fun. Please contact Veronica Loo at handsway@rogers.com to reconnect with the group.



Greetings from the golden girls of the Class of 1965.

The *Class of 1985* celebrated their 30th Anniversary on 21 March 2015. A school tour was held in the afternoon, followed by a reunion dinner. To reunite with the group, please contact Susanna Chung at susannachungss@yahoo.com.hk.



The Class of 1985 at their reunion dinner.