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### Mentorship Programme 2017-18

Thanks to the generous support of past St. Marians, the Mentorship Programme of the 2017-18 academic year was completed in March this year. 42 alumnae participated as mentors to care for 120 student mentees for Form 5. They met during the kick-off ceremony on 4 November 2017 during which matched teams were introduced to each other and given the opportunity to plan for further meetings in the year ahead. A second gathering was held on 24 March 2018 where 15 mentors hosted careers seminar sessions to share their knowledge in various professional fields. Student mentees attentively participated and were inspired by the precious sharing from their seniors.



*A starry greeting from mentors and mentees!*

The coming 2018-19 academic year will mark the 15th anniversary for our Mentorship Programme. Reviewing past experience and with input from mentors and mentees, some changes will be introduced to make the experience more relevant to the career considerations of our mentees. We will also be requiring student mentees to submit applications to participate in the programme. This way mentors can know them better, and their engagement can be more in line with the interests of the mentees. We hope that the new arrangement can better serve the needs of fellow St. Marians. Many thanks again to all the teachers, staff and past students who are joining hands to help our Alma Mater in this significant project!

## 120th Anniversary of our Alma Mater



The year 2020 will mark the 120th anniversary of our Alma Mater! Apart from the many celebratory activities organised by the school, the PSA will also be hosting the St. Mary's 120th Anniversary Dinner to commemorate this grand occasion.



Date of the dinner has been set on **28 November 2020 (Sat)**. A Chinese banquet will be held in the evening, after an Open Campus session in the afternoon. Please mark your diaries for the time being, especially for those who are residing overseas. Further information will be available closer to 2020, so please stay tuned !

# 2018 Drama "Dream Chasers"

"During the Drama Week from 14-21 April 2018, the audience were treated to an interesting time travel journey between 1960's Hong Kong and contemporary Hong Kong. The latest production "Dream Chasers" was inspired by past student Lydia Wong who, at last year's play, asked Mr. Oliver the question "Why don't you do something about people whose dreams and ambitions don't always come true?"



*The cast and crew of "Dream Chasers" celebrating with Loban Mr. Oliver at the end of the performance.*

With this idea, Mr. Oliver developed the play, with input from the Core Production Team. The setting was in Hong Kong, something that has never been attempted before. 1960's Hong Kong was chosen to show the "dreamers" dreaming, and contemporary Hong Kong to show them looking back at the results of their ambitions. Most of the actors had to play the same characters 60 years apart -- what a challenge!

A big thanks to the cast and crew of over 130 students who gave a stunning performance. "Dream Chasers" is the 34rd play and 18th original musical written and produced in St. Mary's by Mr. Geoff Oliver.



## FAREWELL TO AN OLD TREE

Typhoon Mangkhut brought massive disruption to Hong Kong in September 2018. While it was fortunate that our school buildings did not suffer any major damage, it was sad to learn that one of the old trees on the big steps had to be removed. Part of the tree broke in the strong wind, and that revealed some remaining parts which showed signs of decay caused by fungi and termites, causing the tree to pose danger to its surroundings.

While we shall always miss the tree that had accompanied generations of St. Marians for so many decades, we are also relieved to know that staff and students can be safe on the steps and the playground. The school will continue to monitor and upkeep other trees on campus, ensuring the safety of both plants and people.



*The old tree in the middle was removed – resulting in a clearer view of the pillars behind!*

## *Gratitude is the Key to a Meaningful Life* - Sr. Esther Ling

Sr. Esther Ling was School Principal of SMCC for eleven years from 1990 to 2000. A dedicated and passionate educator with a gentle personality, Sr. Esther was a past St. Marian, and a secondary school teacher at St. Mary's in the 1960s. With her many years at 162 Austin Road, Sr. Esther is recognized and welcomed by many alumnae across the decades, and she has also grown a deep emotional bond with her Alma Mater. We have the pleasure to interview Sr. Esther at the Canossian Mission convent earlier this late summer, where she shared with us some of her memories and wishes.



*Sr. Esther shared her stories with us.*

**Why did Sr. Esther venture into education as her service area?** “I was already a teacher before I joined the Institute of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. Therefore, I would say this was a natural progression, and this was also supported by the Institute. As to why I chose to be a teacher, the reasons were twofold. Firstly, I was brought up in a teachers’ family, so I was inspired to pursue a career in education. Secondly, I enjoyed working with people especially in cultivating a good heart, and helping students realize their potential. I found this very meaningful.”



*Sr. Esther with visiting past students during the school's centenary celebration.*

**Sr. Esther has a lot of fond memories in St. Mary's. Is there anything that she would like to share with us?** “Sure, there were many memorable incidents, so let me just share two: Soon after I had joined SMCC as a Form 3 teacher, I was asked to take over as the Class Mistress and the English teacher of a Form 5 class. I recall this happened in January and the students would sit in public exams in a few months’ time. This was pretty challenging, but it also helped me build a strong rapport with these students, with whom I still keep in touch nowadays.”

“Another more recent incident was in the year 2000 when we had the Centennial Anniversary celebratory banquet. The banquet was already fully booked, and there was a batch of past students who couldn't get entry tickets. However, they still decided to return to the school for a photo shoot to congratulate their Alma Mater. Then, they held their own celebratory dinner at a nearby restaurant at the same time when our banquet started. I was hugely touched by this very strong sense of belonging and community, and I would say this was the sweet fruit of our education.”

**What is Sr. Esther's impression on St. Marians?** “Our students are distinguished with a strong sense of commitment and humility as led by the example of our Foundress, St. Magdalen of Canossa. Many of our students are humble and have kept a low profile of their outstanding achievements. St. Marians are also very willing to serve. I am pleased to see that all these aspects of our students align with the core educational values of the school.”



*Sr. Esther is pleased that St. Marians are following the example of our Foundress.*



# Alumnae Day on 24 November 2018

The Alumnae Day this year is scheduled on 24 November 2018 (Sat). With the assistance from School Management as well as the Student Council, past students are welcome to visit their Alma Mater with their friends and family. The following activities have been lined up for the day:

## Open Campus (3:00-5:00pm)

The campus will be open from 3:00-5:00pm on the day. Walk around the School to appreciate the ambience of her historical architecture, revisit golden memories and take pictures, exchange anecdotes, while learning about new progress and development. Student Council members will be standing by and ready to exchange stories with you. This is the perfect opportunity to bring your family to experience the beauty of our Alma Mater!



*Come visit your Alma Mater in the afternoon....*



*...and join a feast in the evening!*

## Poon Choi Dinner (6:00-8:30pm)

The Poon Choi dinners in previous years have been a huge success, and we are happy to be organizing this as a regular event for our alumnae and friends! Join us to witness how our basketball court get converted into a dining area in just an hour. Bring

your family along to enjoy the beauty of our school buildings in the evening lights. Let your children enjoy the big steps like we did when we were their age. We promise you a warm and cozy home-coming evening under the stars. Special thanks again to the School Management of SMCC and SMCS for letting us share such a special occasion with fellow St. Marians!

Tickets are \$160 per head and \$1,920 per table. Number of tables are limited so make your bookings ASAP by completing and returning the Reply Form on the following page, or download it from our website. Bookings will only be considered upon full payment, and on a first-come-first-served basis. For further details, please refer to the instructions listed on the Reply Form.

# Alumnae Day 2018

## Campus Poon Choi Dinner

### REPLY FORM

(You can also download this form from the PSA website at [www.stmaryspsa.org](http://www.stmaryspsa.org))

Date : 24 November 2018 (Sat)  
 Time : 6:00 – 8:30 pm  
 Place : Basketball Court  
 Price : HK\$160 per ticket (same price for adults or kids who occupy one seat)  
 Deadline : 2 November 2018 (Fri) - number of tables are limited, first-come-first-served!

Name:			
Year of Graduation:	Form 5 under HKCEE _____	OR	Form 6 under HKDSE _____
Membership No:		Mobile No:	
Email Address:			

**Yes! I would like to join the Alumnae Day Campus Poon Choi Dinner on 24 November 2018 (Sat).**

Reservation	Unit price	Subtotal
_____ seat(s)	HK\$ 160	HK\$
_____ table(s), 12 persons each	HK\$ 1,920	HK\$
<b>Grand Total =</b>		HK\$

**Payment Method** (please  where appropriate) :

- Pay through direct deposit - Preferred method** - Please deposit the amount to the SMPSA bank account (St. Mary's Past Students' Association, Hang Seng Bank Account #289-8-123415) and email the deposit slip with this Reply Form to [activities@stmaryspsa.org](mailto:activities@stmaryspsa.org).
- Pay by cheque** - Please make the cheque crossed and payable to "St. Mary's Past Students' Association" and send it with this Reply Form to St. Mary's Past Students' Association, 162 Austin Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon. Please mark "Poon Choi Dinner" on the envelope.

**Please note :**

- Group booking is encouraged. Each table seats 12 people.
- As number of tables are limited, all bookings are on first-come-first-served basis.
- Reservation will only be processed upon receiving full payment. Confirmation will be sent via email or telephone.
- For reservations that cannot be accommodated, a full refund will be made within 4 weeks after the event.
- Participants who fail to turn up on the day will not be refunded.
- The dinner is provided and managed by 8 Mei Heung Poon Choi.
- In case of rainy weather on the day, the tables will be moved to covered areas.
- In case of extreme bad weather condition, arrangement will be announced on the PSA website.
- Please send email to [activities@stmaryspsa.org](mailto:activities@stmaryspsa.org) for further information.

## About our Newsletter

Every year, the PSA Exco prepares two issues of newsletters for our members. We send e-notifications to over 5,000 of our members, and mail out over 2,000 hard copies, including those who reside overseas.

Our Membership Secretary often receive enquiries about our newsletter. We have compiled some common questions to share with you. If you encounter the same situation, please contact our Membership Secretary at [membershipsec@stmaryspsa.org](mailto:membershipsec@stmaryspsa.org):



### FAQ ...

- Q. I used to receive e-notification (or hard copy) of newsletter, but I haven't been doing so for some time.**
- A. Please remember to notify us when you change your email address (or postal address) by sending an email to our Membership Secretary.
- Q. I haven't changed my email address but I don't seem to receive e-notification on new issues.**
- A. Members who use Hotmail as their email service provider will likely fail to receive our notifications, as Hotmail has been blocking emails sent out through bulk dispatch. If you use Hotmail, please provide an alternate email address from another email service provider to our Membership Secretary.
- Q. I have opted to receive e-notification, but am still getting hard copies.**
- A. As members who use Hotmail as their email service provider will likely fail to receive our notifications, we send hard copies to them as a backup. This will stop when an alternate email address is provided.
- Q. I haven't opted out for hard copy, but am now receiving e-notification only.**
- A. Please notify the Membership Secretary if this happens.

### Behind the Scene ...

Throughout the years, our younger sisters at school have been helping us to handle the lettershop work

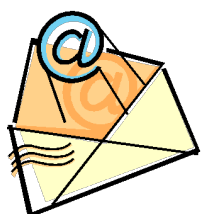


*Students helping with lettershop work of our newsletter.*

for our newsletters. A team of around 40 students will spend 1.25 hours after school on the required day to prepare the items for postage. They work efficiently to ensure that the newsletters are properly folded and sealed, so that the school janitors can bring them to the Post Office the following day.

The Exco would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students who had helped in the process throughout the years, and to the teachers and staff who always give all their support to make this possible.

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 instead. Please contact the Membership Secretary at [membershipsec@stmaryspsa.org](mailto:membershipsec@stmaryspsa.org) if you'd like to help us out and opt not to receive the mailed copy. Thank you in advance.

## ...CLASS REUNION NEWS...

**The Class of 1983** will be organizing a 35th anniversary reunion lunch on 20 October 2018 in Hong Kong. Over 40 classmates have already signed up. Those who would still like to reconnect please contact Eva Chow at [ongsiong@yahoo.com](mailto:ongsiong@yahoo.com).

**The Class of 1988** will be having their 30th anniversary reunion on 24 November 2018 in Hong Kong. They will visit the school in the afternoon, to be followed by a reunion dinner in the same evening. Over 80 classmates have already signed up. Those who would still like to join the happy event please contact Heidi Lee at [leeheidi1201@gmail.com](mailto:leeheidi1201@gmail.com).

## ...ALUMNAE NEWS...

### Marians in Faith

Prayer and reflection is the perfect antidote to our busy, distracted lives. The consecrated “Mother Mary as our Mom and Role Model” Retreat held on 5 May 2018 was full of inspiring talks, moments of reflection, and encounters of prayer to help explore how God is inviting us to know, love and serve Him.

Mary, in a very splendid way, did this flawlessly and we are blessed to learn from her, how we can do this best in the real world. When we were asked to take up significant challenges in life, our reaction was probably similar to Mary’s: “How can this be?” Like Mary, we may not consider ourselves worthy of such a calling. This modesty is completely understandable. However,



*Participants at the “Mother Mary as our Mom and Role Model” Retreat.*



*A sharing session during the retreat.*

God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called. We can continually endeavour to say “Yes” to God’s call. And we do so with the humility that Mary showed: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)

Throughout the Retreat, the attendees deepened relationship with God while enjoying quiet and spiritual enrichment. The participants also treasured the time to share stories and experience with each other. What a memorable event!

Our next scheduled event is a sharing session on “Our lady of Guadalupe” by Ms. Meaco Kwok, to be held from 2:00pm to 4:30pm on Saturday 27 October 2018.

“Marians in Faith” is a self-initiated Catholic group aimed at strengthening SMCC alumnae’s faith in God. To learn about our activities, please visit our Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/MariansInFaith>, or contact us via [mariansinfaith@gmail.com](mailto:mariansinfaith@gmail.com).