



Come and Visit our Alma Mater on Homecoming Day 2024

It has been a long time since alumnae have gathered on campus... how we miss the nostalgia of our younger days! The SMPSA has some good news for you – our Alma Mater welcomes us to visit the campus during the Homecoming Day on **23 March 2024 (Sat)**!



For this special occasion, teachers and students will be preparing some engaging science, art and music activities for us. Come and join the fun and mingle with St. Marians from different generations. There is always something new to learn! In addition, the Alumnae Choir will also be giving a special performance, including the School Song finale to conclude the day's event.

You can bring along family and children, and share your unforgettable stories with them at the many iconic locations. ***Please register before 20 March 2024 (Wed) to join the event!***

Date & Time: 23 March 2024 (Sat), 10:30am-3:00pm

Area	Activities	Time
Covered Playground	STEAM activities, suitable for adults as well as young children	All day
Gymnasium	Hymn singing sessions with Music Club members	Session 1: 11:00am-11:30am Session 2: 12:00pm-12:30pm Session 3: 1:00pm-1:30pm
College Hall	Performance by the Alumnae Choir, with the School Song finale	2:15pm – 2:45pm
Designated Areas on Campus	Strolling and Photo-taking	All day

For more information on the Homecoming Day and online registration, please visit the SMPSA website [here](#), or scan the QR code on the right.

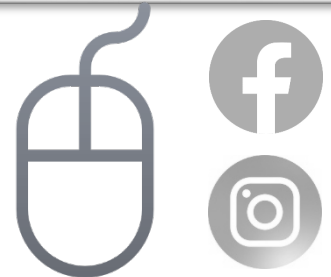
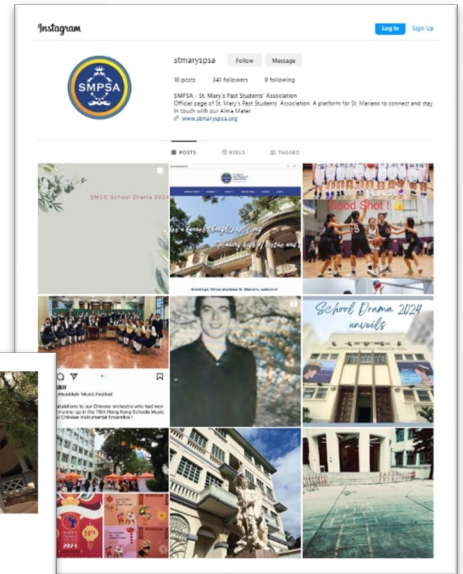


SMPSA News – Our New Online Presence

We are happy to launch our official [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages, as well as our new [website](#), to serve as platforms for alumnae St. Marians to connect and stay in touch with our Alma Mater.

Our goal is to build a strong and collaborative network for St. Marians to support each other and our school community.

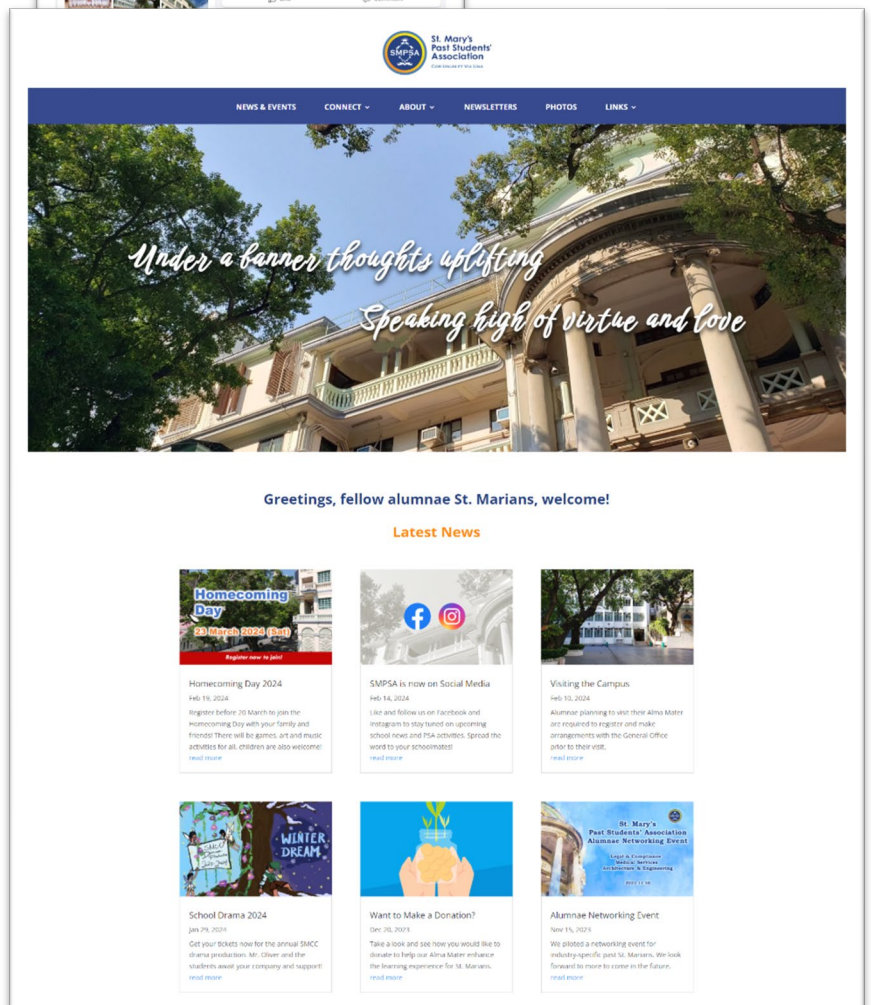
Follow us to keep on top of the latest developments, including timely updates on our beloved Alma Mater. Spread the word to your fellow schoolmates, so that we can all stay connected and celebrate the St. Marian spirit!



Do you like our new logo?

It features the SMPSA name, graphically backed by a silhouette of our school emblem. It epitomizes the idea that our Alma Mater is forever at the core of our being, providing purpose and support all the time.

The colour band around symbolizes the union of past students from SMCC and SMCS, celebrating a common love and care towards our Alma Mater.



School Drama “Winter Dream”



The drama production of the 2023-24 school year took place from 24 February to 2 March in the College Hall. The audience were treated to five shows of “Winter Dream”, a story which, incredibly, has had a gestation period of more than 20 years!

Writer of the play was Loban, Mr. Geoff Oliver, who shared the origination of the idea in his director's notes: “We did our first production of Shakespeare's ‘A Midsummer Night's Dream’ (AMND) in 1992, followed by another in 2010. At the time of the first production, I speculated with the cast what might have happened to the characters following the end of the play, and even drafted an outline with the title, ‘Midwinter's Nightmare’. From that initial idea came ‘Winter Dream!’”



“Winter Dream” took place around twenty years after the original AMND story's events. The characters had matured, but there was disharmony and conflict amongst them, hence

the weather had become always winter and never spring. One day, they found themselves in face of five Hong Kong students on a study tour from the year 2024 who, through some element of time-travel, or possibly a passage through a wormhole in space and time, or merely the writer's whim, somehow became involved with the fictional characters from “A Midsummer Night's Dream”!

While the 90-minute musical took many of the audience down memory lane, it was delightful to see how Loban expanded Shakespeare's classic story and made it relevant and entertaining, creating seamless interactions across time and space!



After the show, emotions ran high for all the 117 students in the performing and production teams. During Loban's closing speech, he thanked the girls for bringing the story to life, as well as encouraged them to treasure the spirit of team work that they had experienced. Loban also thanked the audience for their support, and invited everyone to see the play next year, which will also be celebrating the school's 125th anniversary!

School News – Mentorship Programme 2023-24

The SMCC Mentorship Programme was launched in 2004, and the 2023-24 school year is the 20th anniversary of the programme. It aims to facilitate the exchange of academic, life and professional experiences between past students and our F.5 students, one year prior to the students' graduation. The goal is to better prepare our girls for their future studies and career choices.



This year, the programme kicked off with a Careers Day held on 25 November 2023. Twelve alumnae registered as mentors and speakers for the event, and students had the opportunity to attend two parallel career seminars based on their preferences.

Following the seminars, all students reconvened to listen to a talk by Ms. Janice Pao, who generously shared her professional journey after graduating from St. Mary's, and her advice on how

to take ownership of one's development path. The end of the event did not put a stop to the rapport established between our mentors and students, as students who were interested to develop a mentoring relationship managed to get further engaged with their respective mentors.

The School would like to express sincere gratitude to all the mentors who have dedicated their expertise and time to guide and nurture St. Marians, helping to sustain the proud legacy of St. Mary's.



Alumnae News - Congratulations to Sr. Maria Lit

On 12 November 2023, our alumna Sr. Maria Lit celebrated her 55th anniversary of serving as a catechist for adult catechumens during the ceremony at the Hong Kong Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, being presented a Certificate of Appreciation by His Eminence Cardinal Stephen Chow, Bishop of Hong Kong.

The year also marked Sr. Lit's 65th anniversary of entrance into religious life since 1958. Now at 85, she is still teaching adult and parent-child catechism classes in her office on the balcony level of our school chapel. Sr. Lit's unwavering dedication in her evangelisation work has inspired many. May God continue to look after her and grant her good health and happiness, and may Sr. Lit continue to shine in God's everlasting love and grace.



SMPSA News – Alumnae Networking Event

SMPSA piloted a new initiative to reconnect with our alumnae in 2023.

We reached out to our alumnae in a few professional fields, namely Architecture & Engineering, Legal & Compliance and Medical Services, and invited them to join a cocktail reception on 10 November 2023 to meet and expand their networks.



Our goal was to provide a platform that can foster collegiality, collaboration, and mutual support amongst fellow alumnae in the same professions and sectors across different generations. Given this stronger connection, we could also be in a better position to support the ongoing development of our Alma Mater and her students.



Response was enthusiastic and 40 alumnae turned up at the event, with 3 from Architecture & Engineering, 23 from Legal & Compliance, and 14 from Medical Services. During the event held at the Hong Kong Bankers Club from

6:30-8:30pm, alumnae from different generations gathered to mingle and shared industry experience over cocktails and snacks.

Participants also identified volunteer Convenors within each group to help arrange future gatherings and exchanges for alumnae of their professional fields. We thank Dr. Bonita Law (Medical Services), Ms. Pearl Lam and Ms. Amy Lee (Legal & Compliance), and Ms. Amy Lo (Architecture & Engineering) who offered their unwavering support to help in the coordination.

If you are interested to join these groups, please visit the SMPSA [website](#) for the latest contact information. The Exco will be planning networking opportunities for other industry groups in the future to unite more alumnae with similar professional backgrounds. Do stay tuned for our updates!



Medical Services



Architecture & Engineering



Legal & Compliance

School News - Visiting the Campus

Our Alma Mater welcomes visits from past students.

Due to the busy school and student activity schedules, ongoing maintenance works, premise safety and security concerns, **prior registration is required** for alumnae visits to minimise interruption to campus life. The School will arrange a teacher or a staff to accompany you during your visit to ensure a pleasant experience.



Starting from April 2024, alumnae can register for visits by accessing the [SMCC website](#) and filling out a Google Form, stating the proposed date, the purpose of visit, as well as listing the names of other alumnae in the company. A staff member from the General Office will then get in touch with you to follow up on the arrangements.

We recommend you to have a flexible schedule, as there are occasions that the school cannot receive visitors due to various activities. Please also note that **only past St. Marians** are allowed on campus during such visits. Family and friends are welcomed during special events such as Drama Week, Open Day or Alumnae Homecoming Day etc.

Visitors should enter the school via the Kimberley Road entrance, and sign in at the security counter to comply with security measures. While on campus, please observe the instructions and be cooperative with school administration to ensure a happy experience for all parties.

Thank you for your cooperation. Have a wonderful time down memory lane!



~~~ Happy Retirement ~~~



Ms. Berenice Lau joined SMCC in 1989 as Chemistry and Biology teacher. She later took up the role of Discipline Mistress and prior to her retirement, she was the Vice Principal. Ms. Lau retired after 34 years of service at SMCC.



Ms. Consa Kong joined SMCS in 1994. She was Student Guidance Teacher, and was in charge of planning and organising Life Education activities and coordinating the "Understanding Adolescent Project". Ms. Kong retired after serving 29 years at SMCS.



Mrs. Carmen Cheung joined SMCS in 1997. She taught Chinese and Putonghua, and was one of the Chinese Panel Heads. Mrs. Cheung served 26 years at SMCS.

On behalf of all past St. Marians, we extend our profound gratitude and best wishes to all retiring teachers. May they enjoy a relaxing and delightful new page showered with God's blessings!

Want to make a donation to your Alma Mater?

Our Alma Mater is constantly on the lookout for additional financial support to back the improvement of learning experiences for St. Marians, and would welcome donations from past students who are interested to provide assistance. There are a number of ongoing appeals:

For SMCC

- **General Donations** - supports general expenses for overall SMCC campus and student development needs
- **Drama Development Fund** - supports the expenses related to our school drama production, including the maintenance of equipment
- **Music Development Fund** - supports music-related projects for the students, including subsidizing the remuneration of the orchestra conductors, as well as the purchase and maintenance of musical instruments

For SMCS

- **General Donations** – supports general expenses for overall SMCS campus and student development needs



How to Donate

As the Education Bureau requires that all donations must be approved by the Incorporated Management Committees and properly documented for record-keeping, cheques are the preferred way of payment. Please make the cheque payable to **“The IMC of St. Mary’s Canossian College”** or **“The IMC of St. Mary’s Canossian School”**, marking your donation target at the back of the cheque. If you need a receipt for tax deduction purpose, please let us know the name to be put on the receipt and the address for mailing.

For further enquiries or other donation intents, please contact the General Offices for assistance:

SMCC – Ms. Dolphin Li at 2724 2771 <dolphinli@smcc.hk>

SMCS – Ms. Macy Ho at 2368 4204 <macyho@smcs.edu.hk>

In Loving Memory

Ms. Ng Yuk Chee (吳鈺池老師), teacher at SMCC from 1966 to 1996, returned peacefully to God on 31 May 2023 in Toronto, Canada.



Ms. Ng was a veteran Chinese Language and Chinese History teacher, and was also Discipline Mistress and advisor to the Chinese Society prior to her retirement. Students remembered her for her deep knowledge of the Chinese culture, her special sense of humour, as well as her straight-forward approach in ensuring discipline when students got disorderly. Outside of work, Ms. Ng was also an avid Chinese painter, with her work having been showcased in our school magazine.

Ms. Ng moved to Vancouver, Canada, after retirement, and later settled in Toronto. She enjoyed the quiet life there and participated in regular volunteer work, occasionally meeting with former colleagues and past students for reminiscence.

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

Class Year Reunions

The **Class of 1963** were delighted to gather and celebrate their 60th anniversary Diamond Reunion in 2023.

During 2-4 October, the overseas classmates enjoyed a 4-day trip to Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. Thirteen old girls arrived with six spouses from both Canada and USA to join the trip. The memorable occasion included sharing delicious meals together, watching entertaining shows as well as sight-seeing around Las Vegas. The highlight of the celebration was a delicious Chinese banquet complete with thanksgiving prayers and the SMCC School Song.

In addition, on 2 November 2023, nineteen girls from the Chinese section also celebrated the anniversary over Chinese lunch in Hong Kong. What a happy occasion when old friends meet!



The **Class of 1983** reunited to commemorate their 40th anniversary on 4 November 2023 in Hong Kong. 48 classmates celebrated over Chinese lunch with 11 teachers, all sharing a great time and catching up with each other again after a long period of pandemic hiatus. So much laughter and chit-chat!

Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2024 of St. Mary's Past Students' Association

Date : 23 March 2024 (Saturday)
Time : 9:30 am
Venue : Geography Room, 2/F Marian Building, SMCC

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 25 March 2023.
2. Chairman's Report.
3. Adoption of the Financial Report for the last financial year ending 31 August 2023.
4. Any Other Business.

Prior Registration Required

Members of the Association are welcome to join the meeting. Please register your attendance by **19 March 2024 (Tue)**. Access will only be granted to those who have successfully pre-registered.

A registration code will be then be issued. Please present the registration code (in image or paper form) at the Kimberley Road entrance for verification.

Visit the SMPSA website [here](#) or scan the QR code on the right to download the Registration Form or Proxy Form.

