



**St. Mary's
Past Students'
Association**
COR UNUM ET VIA UNA

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024

Address: c/o SMCC, 162 Austin Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: 2724 2771 Fax: 2724 2719
Email: stmaryspsa@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.stmaryspsa.org>

Happy 125th Anniversary to our Alma Mater

To celebrate our Alma Mater's 125th anniversary, SMCC, SMCS and SMPSA have lined up a series of events to enable alumnae to share the memorable occasion. Please mark the dates on your diary now and spread the news to your friends as well, and stay tuned for more information on the SMPSA website!



SMCC & SMCS Open Days

Date: 18-19 January 2025 (Sat & Sun)

Everyone is welcome on campus to celebrate our anniversary!

Various activities will be lined up, including interactive activity and games, exhibitions, workshops, classroom visits, dance and music performances, friendly sports matches, debates, souvenirs for sale and plenty of photo ops. Take your family along and share your fond memories of your beloved Alma Mater with them.

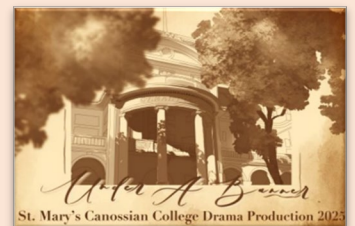
The SMPSA will also be hosting a booth during the event. Come visit us and have fun!

Visit the SMPSA [website](http://www.stmaryspsa.org) for the latest info.

COMING
SOON

Drama Week

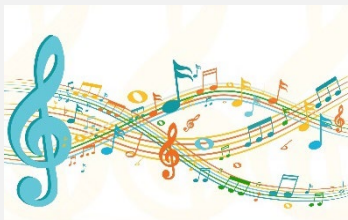
Date: 1, 3, 5, 7-8 March 2025



The drama this year is "Under A Banner". The title comes from the first line of our school song and the play will be a celebration of the life of a student in St Mary's, as seen through the eyes of Suzy, a girl whose journey we follow from her first day in the school to her graduation.

The production is a multi-media show with both live action on stage and archive footage from events in St Mary's, past and present. It is a musical play with songs and dances which will end with a grand parade of banners, representing the various activities students can take part in, as well as the guiding principles which staff from the school's foundation, through to the present day, aspire to uphold and pass on to generations of St Marians.

Visit the school's [website](http://www.stmaryspsa.org) to stay updated.



125th Anniversary Concert

Date : 30 June 2025 (Mon)

Venue : Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Singing and musical performances from students of SMCC, SMCS, alumnae and guest schools.

The school has invited accomplished alumnae musicians to perform at the event – Ms. Diana Tse (Cantonese Opera), Ms. Fiona Foo (Marimba) and Ms. Vanessa Wong & Ms. Valerie Wong (Two Pianos). In addition, the Alumnae Choir will sing at this special event, and is calling all former choristers to join! [Enrol](#) before 23 December 2024 to participate.

Ticketing details for the event will be announced in due course.

125th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

Date: 29 November 2025 (Sat)

Organiser: SMPSA

Don't miss out this opportunity to reunite with school mates and teachers!



Mark your diary now and stay tuned for more updates.

SMPSA News – Delightful Encounters on Homecoming Day

After a long hiatus, alumnae were excited to gather on campus during the Homecoming Day on 23 March 2024 (Sat). We were blessed with good weather on the day, and over 700 past St. Marians, friends and family members were warmly welcomed by teachers and students who had prepared various activities for engagement.



Around the playground, students held various activity booths throughout the day for presentation and demonstration of various science, technology and art projects. At the gymnasium, music students led two hymn singing sessions which allowed alumnae to relive their younger days by singing familiar hymns in unison. Cameras were seen everywhere with cheerful alumnae taking pictures of one another. The school staff also generously offered freshly made popcorn to visitors!

Many alumnae brought family along, so the event inevitably became a heartwarming occasion, full of laughter and cheers. We were also delighted to welcome Mrs. Winnie Hung, Ms. Amelia Tsang, Mr. Philip Lee and Mrs. Kapo Lee to the event, who alumnae greeted with great enthusiasm.



The day came to a close with visitors gathering in the College Hall for a special performance by the Alumnae Choir, concluding with an enchanting chorus of the School Song.



On behalf of all alumnae, we would like to extend our gratitude to all teachers, students and school staff for preparing arranging and hosting such a wonderful event. Our special thanks also go to members of the Alumnae Choir who practiced and rehearsed for their enjoyable performance.

Last but not least, we thank you all for your support. Live St. Mary's ever more!





School News – New Appointments



With the commencement of the 2024-25 school year, Sr. Veronica Fok has been appointed School Supervisor of SMCC. In addition, Ms. Dorothy Cheung also joined Ms. Jenny Chan and Ms. Amanda Tang as one of the three Vice Principals in the School Management Team.

Incidentally, the four of them are all alumnae of St. Mary's, and they are delighted to have the opportunity to work together to serve their Alma Mater. Do say hi to them when you see them on campus!

(From left: Ms. Jenny Chan, Sr. Veronica Fok, Ms. Dorothy Cheung, Ms. Amanda Tang)

Save
the
Date!

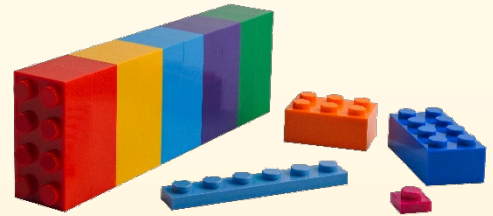
125th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

29 November 2025 (Sat)
More details coming soon!

125th Anniversary Souvenirs – Celebrating our History Brick by Brick

2025 marks the centennial anniversary of the historic **St. Michael Building**, and the 95th anniversary of the iconic **Main Building**, both of which were confirmed as Grade 1 Historic Buildings in 2010 by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

The SMPSA, collaborating with our Alma Mater, is excited to bring to alumnae exclusive models of these two historic buildings, both assembled in authentic LEGO® bricks. These models have been meticulously designed to reflect the majestic appearance of the two buildings that have accompanied generations of St. Marians. They are custom-made and will be presented with instruction manuals to help you assemble them at home.



As we all miss our school days, we have also designed a commemorative **SMCC Student Figurine Set**, with customizable facial expression, hairstyle, uniform type and even house colour, for alumnae's keepsake. These lovely figurines will each be properly housed in a display box.

All proceeds from the sale of these souvenirs, minus the production cost, will be donated to support our Alma Mater's 125th Anniversary Fundraising Project. The final touchups of the designs are currently underway. Let's have a preview of these enticing brick projects....



*St. Michael Building
Railings and the Corridor*



*St. Michael Building
Small Balcony*



Main Building Chapel and the Pillars



Main Building Side Entrance



Customisable Student Figurines

**Come see the actual samples at the SMPSA booth during the
125th Anniversary Open Days on 18-19 January 2025!
Order placement will commence at the same time on campus and online.
Stay tuned for further updates [here](#).**



School News – Mentorship Programme 2024-25

On 16 November 2024, over a hundred Form 5 students shared an engaging morning with alumnae during the Careers Day cum Mentorship Programme Kick-off Event for the school year 2024-25. In the morning, all students attended a plenary session presented by alumna Ms. Cindy Tsui, who has an interesting career path that switched from the publishing industry to the police force. Students were naturally curious in her very unusual experience, and were keen to ask questions. After the plenary session, 12 alumnae mentor speakers held two parallel career seminar sessions on industries based



on the students' preferences, and there were lively exchanges even after the event. Eventually, 30 mentees signed up to further develop a longer-term mentoring relationship.

We are extremely grateful to all the speakers and mentors who are volunteering their time and knowledge to inspire and

nurture young St. Marians, sustaining the proud legacy of generations of St. Mary's.

Reminder: Alumnae who are interested to serve as mentors can contact Mrs. Queenie Mui for further information by emailing to queeniewong@smcc.hk. Kindly note that all invitations will be sent directly by Mrs. Mui. If you receive solicitation from suspicious persons, please inform Mrs. Mui immediately.



HAPPY RETIREMENT



Mrs Sarah Tchiang joined SMCS in 1992. She taught English and Religious Education, and was the person-in-charge of WebSAMS and Resources Management Team. Mrs. Tchiang retired after 32 years at SMCS.



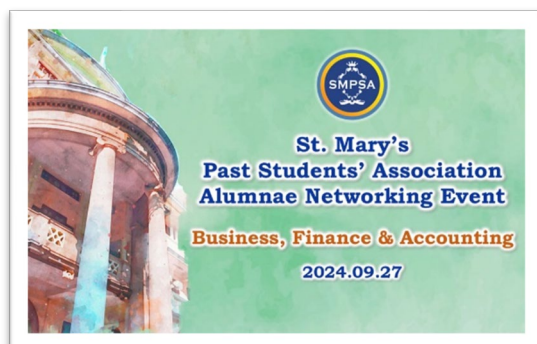
Mrs Lydia Mok joined SMCS in 2001. She was teacher of Mathematics, Religious Education and Geography, and had been Panel Chairperson for Geography and Religious Education. Mrs. Mok retired after 23 years at SMCS.

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!

SMPSA News – Alumnae Networking Event

Last November, SMPSA launched a new networking initiative to enable alumnae members working in the same industries to connect with each other and expand their professional network.

This autumn, we had our second event targeting alumnae from the Business, Finance and Accounting sector. On 27 September 2024 (Fri), 25 alumnae gathered for a cocktail reception from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Hong Kong Bankers Club. Although participants were from very different generations, ranging from graduates of the 1980s to current university students, lively exchanges took place amongst all, and new acquaintances were made.



After the meeting, the group identified Ms. Elaine Chan to be the volunteer Convenor, and a Whatsapp group has been set up for further communication. Many thanks to Elaine for offering her assistance!



Join our Alumnae Industry Groups!

We are setting up Alumnae Industry Groups to enable members working in the same industries to connect with each other and expand their professional network. The following 10 industry groups have been identified at this stage (arranged in alphabetical order):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Architecture & Engineering | 6. Education, Social Service & Non-Profits |
| 2. Arts, Culture & Sports | 7. Hospitality & Travel |
| 3. Business, Finance & Accounting | 8. Innovation & Technology |
| 4. Civil & Public Service | 9. Legal & Compliance |
| 5. Communications, Marketing & Media | 10. Medical Services |

Group members will be connected via Whatsapp group for easy communication. Events and activities will be arranged from time to time with the help of Convenors. Members who are interested, please fill in the Application Form [here](#).

SMPSA News – Membership Update

The School and the SMPSA would always like to further strengthen our alumnae community and unite all past St. Marians under the Association.

With the launch of our new visual identity, our Membership Secretary is reaching out to Members and emailing them e-versions of the Membership Card these few months. Look out for our mail in your email box. (Check the spam folder too just in case!)

If your personal particulars have changed since your initial registration, e.g. email address, mobile number or occupation, please inform us via our membership update [webpage](#), so that we can keep you in the loop.

For alumnae who had not yet registered for Membership, we sincerely invite you to join the community, so that you can receive the latest updates on our activities, as well as take part in members-only events. Here is the [link](#) to the application webpage. Thank you so much for the support!



In Loving Memory

Mrs. Irene Wong, teacher at SMCS from 1972 to 1997, returned to our Heavenly Home peacefully on 3 April 2024 at age 77.

Mrs. Wong, known as Miss Hung when she first joined SMCS, was teacher in English, Mathematics, Geography and Science. She had been the panel chairperson of Mathematics and Geography, and was also leader of choral speaking teams. After her retirement, she moved to Vancouver with her family, and enjoyed travelling and playing with her grandchildren.



Mrs. Jean Ma (李璣老師), teacher at SMCS from 1961-1992, passed away on 16 April 2024 in Hong Kong at age 95.

Mrs. Ma taught Chinese, Putonghua, Social Studies, Health Education and Needlework, and had always been a mother figure to her students and colleagues alike. After her retirement in 1992, Mrs. Ma returned to SMCS and served as substitute teacher until 1996. She loved spending time with her family, and also enjoyed meeting former colleagues from time to time.



Sr. Bernadette Au, School Principal of SMCC and Patron of SMPSA from 2000 to 2007, returned peacefully to God on 24 September 2024 in Hong Kong at age 77.

As School Principal, Sr. Bernadette led the transition during the implementation of the Through Train mode in 2005, working laboriously with the school management teams of SMCC, SMCS and HACS in this monumental task. As Patron of SMPSA, she cared a lot about the organisation's well-being, and guided us in our development as well as becoming close partners with our Alma Mater. We are forever indebted to her for her love and encouragement.



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

School News – 125th Anniversary Fundraising Project



While preparations for celebration activities are underway, our Alma Mater is also taking the opportunity to launch the 125th Anniversary Fundraising Project to solicit financial support for a number of artistic and technological initiatives that will bring forth the anniversary theme of Heritage and Innovation. Let's unite in One Heart and One Way to support the continuous development of our beloved Alma Mater on this very special occasion!

"Bring Me Home" Project – to repurpose the wood from the camphor tree that has been removed from the big steps, in honour of its century-old beauty and contribution to St. Marians;

Installation of LED walls in the College Hall and Gymnasium to modernise our learning environment;

Upgrading classroom AV facilities to nurture students' digital competence and enhance effectiveness of teachers' lesson delivery;

Creating a scale model of our campus on its 125th anniversary as a meaningful record and keepsake.

For the official appeal and information on how to donate, please click [here](#).

REMINDER

SMCC & SMCS
125th Anniversary
Open Days

18 Jan (Sat) – 1:30-5pm
19 Jan (Sun) – 10am-3pm

Join the
Alumnae Choir
before **23 Dec** to
sing at the
125th Anniversary
Concert

REMINDER