



St. Mary's Past Students' Association

NEWSLETTER ♦ OCTOBER 2007

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Email: stmaryspsa@gmail.com Website: www.stmaryspsa.org



Message from our Patron Ms Catherine Wong, Principal of SMCC

Dear Alumnae,

It is indeed my great honour to be addressing you in the capacity of the new Principal of St. Mary's Canossian College, a highly prestigious school. Incidentally, this is my twenty-sixth year of service to the Canossian Institute and my eleventh to St. Mary's. I am proud to say that I love the Institute and St. Mary's as if I were an alumnae like you!



Of course, just paying lip service cannot maintain or sustain the esteem of the school. At this point in time, when everyone in the education sector is busy with preparations for 334, we at St. Mary's are no different. I understand the complexity and the demands of the educational reforms on our teachers and students. My experience from another Canossian school made me more sensitive to the impact of the reforms on the school, the delicacy of the invaluable culture here and what it takes to motivate and take our highly capable staff and students forward. Working cohesively with the Senior Administration Team, I make proposals in collaboration with the key members of my colleagues which are then refined and adopted after open staff consultation. Student welfare will always be my top priority. In my own style, without dictating or bossing around, I set forth to achieve the school targets.

The members of the PSA's devotion and love for the school have been witnessed by every member of the community and undoubtedly the students and staff have been the beneficiaries. This strong bonding of yours has always resulted in praiseworthy initiatives for the welfare of the school. In the midst of your busy personal schedule, your fund-raising activities have always exceeded the targets. Your generous and often anonymous donations allow us to provide upgraded facilities for the benefits of your juniors. Taking inspiration and courage from our new Head Girl for 2007-08, I dare to speak of my aspiration which is to make St. Mary's the best of the best! We count on your continuous support, without which, our dream may remain a dream!

May the good Lord shower His abundant blessings on us!

Yours sincerely,
Ms. Catherine WONG



Message from our Patron Ms Maria Cheung, Principal of SMCS

Dear past St. Marians,

I feel so close to you because we share the same precious and unique experiences in the family of St. Mary's.

This is my second year to be the headmistress of primary section. I am extremely grateful to my colleagues, the parents and past students for their support and encouragement. Sr. Virginia continues to be our supervisor, but this year she would be much busier being the principal of Sacred Heart Canossian School (Private Section) as well.



*Greetings from
Miss Cheung & Sr. Virginia*

This year, the Provincial Superior, Sr. Anna Maria Kwan is so kind and generous to provide us with two Canossian sisters to back up and share the work of our Pastoral Team in school. They are Sr. Maria Lit and Sr. Maria Kwok. The girls and parents can talk to them or seek counsel from them. Actually, we have quite a number of Catholic pupils and it is also our vital concern to take part in the formation of their Catholic faith.

As we are going to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Canossian Missions in 2008, we put more emphasis on "charity" and "thanksgiving" in our year plan. Since "Charity and Humility" is the spirit of Canossian Missions, we would like to work and live more in it. I would say that the religious dimension of education in St. Mary's is one of the distinguishing characteristics that many parents value and appreciate. On top of so many schemes and projects, "Formation of Heart" is always our mission and core value.

It takes years to build up the distinct culture of St. Mary's and which effect could be lifelong. The contributions of the teachers, pupils, parents and past students are all essential. I hope we can move on in following the footsteps of our foundress, St. Magdalen of Canossa, and in the loving care of Mary our Mother, for the benefits of our young generation. God bless you all!



Message from the Chairman



2007 has been a year of new changes for the PSA and for our alma mater. First, during the AGM in March, the new Executive Committee was formed, with many new faces added to the team. Then as the school year ended, we bid farewell to our Patron Sr Bernadette Au, who was retiring to a more relaxing yet equally meaningful life. At the same time we welcomed Ms Catherine Wong, the new principal of St Mary's Canossian College, and Ms Maria Cheung, principal of St Mary's Canossian School, both have now become Patrons to the PSA!

With this new page, we have planned a few interesting PSA activities for the coming year. You can read through this newsletter or visit our website on www.stmaryspsa.org for more information.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported the PSA's activities in the past years, and I hope that the PSA had helped you, in ways big or small, better connect with your alma mater, teachers and classmates. We look forward to your continued support in the future!

Sincerely yours,
Justina Law

Executive Committee 2007-2009

The Executive Committee of the Past Students' Association for the period from 2007 to 2009 was elected on 17 March 2007. They are:



Chairman –
Justina Law
198X (F.7)

Job:
Advertising
Interests:
Movies, Karaoke,
Catching up with old friends



Vice Chairman –
Annie Choi
198X (F.7)

Job:
Commerce & Economic Development
Bureau
Interests:
Golfing, Cooking



Vice Chairman –
Jasbir Pannu
197X (F.5)

Job:
Human Resources
Interests:
Reading, Golfing



Honorary Legal Advisor –
Jody Sin
198X (F.7)

Job:
Solicitor
Interests:
Karaoke, Cooking



Treasurer –
Rosa Yeung
197X (F.5)

Job:
Accountant
Interests:
Golfing, Music



Secretary –
Ellie Wong
197X (F.7)

Job:
Executive
Interests:
Music, Badminton, Reading,
Travelling



Membership Secretary –
Monica Wong
197X (F.7)

Job:
Principal Medical & Health Officer,
Department of Health
Interests:
Cross-stitching



Social Convenor –
Juliana Wong
199X (F.5)

Job:
Corporate Communications
Interests:
Movies, Swimming, Badminton



Publication Secretary –
Celia Ho
199X (F.7)

Job:
Lawyer
Interests:
Bodycombat



Publication Secretary –
Angela Liu
198X (F.7)

Job:
Administrator, Lingnan University
Interests:
Tennis



Committee Member -
Barbara Chu
198X (F.7)

Job:
Executive, Department of Health
Interests:
Reading, Music, Tennis



Committee Member –
Katherine Mak
199X (F.7)

Job:
Lawyer
Interests:
Travelling, Reading, Music



Committee Member -
Mabel Leung
196X (F.7)

Job:
Home maker
Interests:
Swimming, Yoga, Ikebana



Committee Member -
Irene Young
198X (F.7)

Job:
Education & Manpower Bureau
Interests:
Reading, Movies



Committee Member -
Susanna Chung
198X (F.5)

Job:
Mother of 2 and charity volunteer
Interests:
Yoga, Travelling



School Liaison Officer (SMCC) –
Queenie Wong
199X (F.5)

Job:
Teacher at SMCC
Interests:
Reading, Dancing, Watching Drama



School Liaison Officer (SMCS) –
Christine Ng
199X (F.5)

Job:
Teacher at SMCS
Interests:
Reading, Swimming, Cooking

PSA UPDATES

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

We are currently looking for past students to act as mentors for our F.6 students.

The Mentorship Program aims to provide a means for Past St. Marians to share their experience and professional knowledge with F.6 students (total no: 96) in order to foster in them a sense of proactiveness in personal growth and preparation for further studies and career choices. Mentors will act as guides to the students on further studies, career discussions and as a confidante and sounding board. For details on the mentorship program and for volunteering to be a mentor, please visit our website or contact Mrs Karen Lui at karenlui@smcc-canossian.org before end of October.

ALUMNAE STATISTICS

We currently have a total of 4,866 alumnae members in our database, spanning eight decades!

30s	2	40s	5	50s	127	60s	347	70s	491	80s	524	90s	1,633	00s	1,737
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We know that if you are receiving this newsletter, you're already one of our members. Thank you for your support. However, we do need your help to spread the word to your schoolmates who are not yet PSA members. For further information, visit the PSA website at www.stmaryspsa.org.



To help conserve the environment, please email to stmaryspsa@gmail.com to opt out receiving the hard copy of the newsletter and simply receive a soft copy. Thank you!

UPCOMING PSA EVENTS

Dec 2007 - MAI PO TOUR (米埔自然遊)



A rare opportunity to visit this increasingly restricted gem of natural habitat in Hong Kong with your family and fellow schoolmates: getting your kids in touch with the real nature beyond the pictures in textbooks, spending time with your loved ones in the serenity not matched by shopping malls!

We'll take the coach from SMCC campus to Mai Po Reserve in the afternoon for a **3-hour guided tour** in small groups. Trained tour guides will lead us to visit Mai Po's birdwatching hide, Gei wai, Round Table boardwalk and Wildlife Education Centre etc. in order to appreciate the nature reserve and its valuable wildlife. Details as follows:

Date : 1 December 2007 (Saturday)

Transportation: Coach service is available to and from the SMCC campus. As timings are strict at Mai Po, we request all visitors to go by coach together for ease of coordination. (Limited parking space will be available on campus.)

Time	Session A (2 groups)	Session B (2 groups)
Coach departs SMCC	1:00pm	1:30pm
Tour starts	2:30pm	3:00pm
Tour ends	5:30pm	6:00pm
Coach departs Mai Po	5:40pm	6:10pm
Coach back at SMCC	6:40pm	7:10pm

Which session do I belong to?

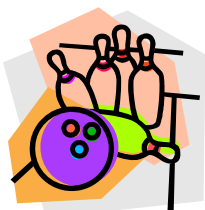
You are welcomed to pick your preferred group timing. However, due to limited number of participants in each group, availability will be on first come first served basis. We shall confirm your grouping upon registration. Attendance MUST be according to your designated session/group.

Ticket price : HK\$110 per head for both adult/child (includes transportation & tour fee)

Registration : Please fill in and return the Reply Form on the last page of this newsletter.

For more information regarding booking condition and rules & regulations at the Mai Po Reserve, please visit the PSA website at www.stmaryspsa.org.

2008 Alumnae Day - Bowling Party



Whether you are a bowling pro, an amateur, or one of us who have yet to touch a bowling ball - for the first time, the bowling party will be a great gathering opportunity for old friends, teachers, peers, and a delightful day of warmth and fun. So mark your diary for this party to be held on **8 March 2008 (Sat)**. Start practising now and check out further details on the PSA website later this year!

CANOSSIAN GLOBAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

St. Mary's going global - the Canossian Global Youth Conference, held from 16-22 July, 2007, was an international conference co-organised by the students from St. Mary's Canossian College and those from Sacred Heart Canossian College. Sixty-seven delegates from Macau, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, East Timor, Italy, Sudan, Tanzania, the United States and Hong Kong met at the Hong Kong Institute of Education to discuss issues of global concern, namely National Defence, Sustainable Development, Intellectual Property and Ethics and World Health Crisis.

Taken almost a year for its preparation starting last October until the closing in July this year, with much hard work and challenging moments, the organising committee found this all worth it - not only fostering their awareness towards global issues, but also the development of their organisational skills, the confidence to reach out, and as shared by the participants, the fruitful cultural exchanges and friendship built.

In the afterthought written by the organising committee, these humble committee members have attributed much of the event's success to their schools and teachers for their unfailing support all the way through, and to the sponsorship and advice from their sponsors and past students. What a joy to see that we have such lovely, good-natured and capable younger sisters in our mother school! For more information of the Conference, please visit www.smcc-canossian.org/cgyc.



Delegates from Hong Kong after the Opening Ceremony



Attending the conference



The Cultural Night performance in national costumes

CANOSSIAN CHAPEL RENOVATION COMPLETED



The Sacred Heart Chapel

Thanks for your generous donations - the Sacred Heart Chapel, which is located at the Canossian Headquarters on Caine Road, has been successfully renovated to restore its beauty as a Grade II historic building!

The Chapel had previously suffered from termites which caused its roof to collapse. With the generous donations from different channels, where St. Marians have been one of the largest source of donors, the restoration works costing around HK\$10 million have been made possible. The Provincial Superior, Sr. Anna Maria Kwan, has expressed her deepest gratitude to St. Marians for their generosity and love. To mark the completion of the project, the centenary mass celebrating the 100th anniversary of the chapel has been successfully held in this renovated historical place on 15th and 16th September this year.



Class Reunion News



Class of 1961 reunion in Toronto

The **Class of 1961** had its 2007 reunion in Toronto, Canada. Twenty girls, including one from Hong Kong and seven from the U.S., gathered for the event consisting of a reunion dinner, harbour cruise and trip to Niagara Falls. They reinforced their friendship which had been established half a century ago! Please contact Theresa Shum at tcheungsss@yahoo.com for information or reconnection.

The **Class of 1977** gathered on 25 August 2007 in Hong Kong for their 30th anniversary reunion. A visit to the school campus in the afternoon, followed by a dinner at night to which more than 35 classmates attended, including some who flew all the way back from Canada and Australia. A similar reunion was also organized on 15 September in Toronto, during which 15 attended, including Ms Ng Yuk Chee!

In addition, to make the occasion more meaningful, the proceeds from the two gatherings were used to set up a "Class of 1977 Scholarship" whereby, for the next 10 years, until their 40th anniversary, the class will award a scholarship to one student a year for achievements in Chinese to show their appreciation and gratitude for the school. To reconnect, please contact Amy Yung at amy@discover-me.com.



Class of 1977 30th anniversary reunion in Hong Kong...



...and also in Toronto!



Over 60 classmates gathered for the Class of 1997 reunion in the tuck shop!

As a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of their graduation from SMCC, the **Class of 1997** had their "Golden 10 Reunion Party" in the school's tuck shop on 7th July 2007. Over 60 girls attended the reunion and it was a special occasion for reconnection since their F.5 graduation. Classmates caught up with each other on the latest updates and enjoyed a cozy afternoon over delicious finger snacks. To reconnect, please contact Juliana Wong at keroppijuli@gmail.com.

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 stmaryspsa@gmail.com.

Overseas Alumnae News

(revised on 3 Nov 2007)

The **St. Mary's Canossian College Alumni Association (Toronto)** will be organizing their annual Christmas gathering on 8 December 2007 (Sat). Do get in touch with Katherine Hauw, Chairlady of the Association, at (416) 332-8733 or jao@ca.inter.net for further details regarding the gathering.



REPLY FORM FOR MAI PO TOUR

(You can also download this form from www.stmaryspsa.org.)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 14 NOVEMBER 2007 (WED)

Name:			
Contact Tel:		Email Address:	
PSA No. (if any):		Year of Form 5:	

I'd like to attend the Mai Po Tour on 1 December 2007 (Sat). Please reserve the following places:

Name of Visitor	HKID No.	Mobile Phone (of team leader)	Remarks:
1.			1. Mai Po is a restricted area thus we need to apply for access permits. It is mandatory to provide full name and HKID No. of each visitor. 2. Once names are registered, changes will be charged at a) HK\$10 each - more than 5 days; b) HK\$50 each - less than 5 days in advance
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
Ticket @ HK\$110 x [] persons =			Total HK\$

Two sessions of guided tour are available: Session A: 2:30-5:30pm, Session B: 3:00-6:00pm. Please indicate your time preference by ✓, and note that due to limited number of visitors in each group, final availability will be on first come first served basis.

- I am/we are flexible and can join either session
- I/we prefer to join Session A
- I/we prefer to join Session B

Please assemble on SMCC campus 1.5hrs prior to your starting time for coach service:- i.e. Assemble time for Session A: 1:00pm. Assemble time for Session B: 1:30pm.

Kindly note:

1. As places are limited, all bookings are on first-come-first-served basis.
2. Please make cheque crossed and payable to "**St. Mary's Past Students' Association**", and send it together with the completed Reply Form to St. Mary's Past Students' Association, 162 Austin Road, Kowloon, c/o Mrs. Karen Lui.
3. You'll receive confirmation of your reservation via email or telephone before 16 November 2007 (Fri).
4. **Attendance MUST be according to your designated session/group. Please be punctual as late comers will not be allowed access to the Mai Po Reserve, and no refund will be given.**
5. For more information regarding the rules & regulations at the Mai Po Reserve, please visit the PSA website at www.stmaryspsa.org.