



St. Mary's Past Students' Association

NEWSLETTER ♦ March 2010

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Message from our Patron Ms. Catherine Wong, Principal of SMCC

Dear Alumnae,

All too soon, the Thanksgiving Mass and Open Day in celebration of our 110th anniversary are over! This joint venture between SMCS and SMCC was in fact an extension of our collaboration in our "through-train" endeavour. The result has been a delightful, heart-warming and unprecedented event which one school alone could never have achieved.



Representative from both SMCC and SMCS joined hands to put together the puzzle of the school emblem.



Our primary students delighted our honourable guests with their curtsies after the souvenir presentation.

In the Thanksgiving Mass, representatives from both the primary and secondary schools' stakeholders paired up to make offerings to thank God for His blessings. Small and big mouths rang out angel voices while short and tall dancers moved gracefully in the liturgy. What a lovely sight to see Brownies standing on duty, alternately and side by side with Girl Guides! My most favourite scene was to see the sweet little girls curtsying after presenting souvenirs to our honourable guests at the

ribbon-cutting ceremony. Everyone's heart melted when they led the guests down stage, tiny hands cupping big ones. It isn't difficult to imagine that the tiny tots in the abacus dance will turn into highly capable and confident senior students, who will be the MCs or even the Head Girl giving her vote of thanks, just as "pretty" ducklings will soon metamorphose into elegant swans!

Our "through-train" endeavour is a daunting task and a huge mission which requires concerted efforts from all parties. With *One Heart and One Way*, we are positive that nothing is impossible, when especially we know that you are behind us, ready to render your juniors the support they need.



Primary and secondary students danced together harmoniously in the liturgy.

In case you have missed the fun this time, it doesn't matter. The year is still young and the celebration goes on! Do come home to the drama in April, concert in June and dinner in November! Happy 110th Anniversary! See you and God bless!

Yours sincerely,
Ms. Catherine Wong

Message from our Patron Ms. Maria Cheung, Principal of SMCS

Dear St. Marians,

I wish you all health, happiness and prosperity in this year of the Tiger!

Gathering and sharing is often a blessing. Our 110th Anniversary Open Day on 6 & 7 February proved to be one, with the spirit of "One Heart and One Way" conveyed by the whole family of St. Mary's. It is not often to have the primary and secondary schools organize a joint function like this, and it proved worthwhile indeed.



*At the cake cutting ceremony (from left to right):
Ms. Catherine Wong, Sr. Cynthia Chan, Bishop John Tong, Sr. Virginia Wong and Ms. Maria Cheung.*

I am glad to know that many of you were able to join us in this happy event. I hope you did enjoy meeting some of our retired teachers and recalling your school life here. I was excited to meet groups of alumnae, some with their families or relatives. Thank you for coming back to celebrate, to participate and to share the joy. Our upper primary pupils were each assigned a duty to either assist in the subject exhibition rooms, or to take part in project presentations or performances. This active participation and sharing of responsibilities helped to build up their sense of belonging, and strengthened their bond to the school.

I appreciate tremendously the well planned and creative arrangement of the Thanksgiving Mass. The combined effort of the secondary and primary school students in their dancing which was performed solemnly and gracefully, the beautiful singing of the choirs, the presenting of the pledge together...all these really touched me. It was amazing to see the queue of representatives of Canossian Sisters, teachers, students, parents, alumnae, staff and managers going up the alter to put together the puzzle of our school emblem. From all these I experienced the unity, harmony and collaboration of all St. Marians. It was simply fantastic. My heartfelt gratitude to the organizing committee for making our dream come true.



*Bishop John Tong blessing the new
St. Magdalen of Canossa statue.*

I would also like to thank the alumnae who had contributed to the erection of the statue of our Foundress. The statue is now temporarily placed under the two araucarias on campus, and was blessed by our Most Reverend John Tong, Bishop of Hong Kong, on 6 February. We need your continuous contributions to the construction of the plinth (i.e. base). If things go on smoothly, the entire project will be completed by May this year and the statue will then be erected at its permanent location near the entrance to the Marian Building. It is a monument expressing gratitude to the respected Sisters who pioneered the Canossian missions in Hong Kong.

Glory, praise and thanksgiving to God as we cherish the accomplishments of St. Mary's over the past 110 years. Live St. Mary's ever more!



*The statue features our
Foundress with students from
both SMCS and SMCC.*

Yours sincerely,
Ms Maria Cheung

Donation Appeal for Statue of St. Magdalen of Canossa



Further to our appeal last time, we are happy to announce that we have already raised over HK\$290,000 for the statue! The updated estimated construction cost is HK\$380,000, so we still need your support. Those who would like to contribute please send your cheque to Ms. Maria Cheung, SMCS Principal, at 162 Austin Road, Kowloon. Please make the cheque crossed and payable to "St. Mary's Canossian School" and mark "Donation for Statue" on the back. If you need a receipt for tax deduction purpose, please also let us know your name and address. Your prompt action would certainly help ensure that the project would be completed on time. Please note that all surplus from our donations will be put into a fund that will finance the future maintenance of the statue.

For further information about the project, kindly contact Ms. Maria Cheung at 2368 4204. We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

PSA News - Lau Fau Shan & Wetland Park Outing

Over 40 excited participants, including past St. Marians with friends and families, principals and retired teachers from both SMCS and SMCC, shared a relaxing Sunday during the Alumnae Day on 13 December 2009.

The programme started at 10 am when we departed from campus for Lau Fau Shan by coach. After a 40-minute journey, the group arrived at Lau Fau Shan's main street and immediately began their "treasure hunt" in the alleys - dried scallops, handmade cookies, Hak Ka style sweet mochi and other



It's time for lunch, and some of us just couldn't wait to taste the oysters!



Everyone turned into eager students following the guide at the Wetland Park.

dried seafood items were sought after by many! At the end of the alley, we came to the most famous oyster market in Hong Kong. What a sight to see tons of oyster shells stacked up at the sea shore while professional oyster planters were busily prising open fresh oysters by hand! Hungry at last, we gathered at a Chinese restaurant for a tasty seafood lunch.

Stomachs full, we arrived at the Hong Kong Wetland Park around 2:30 pm for a nice and relaxing walk. We visited Hong Kong's famous salt water crocodile "Pui Pui", went into hideouts to have

a peek at the black-faced spoonbills that had flown here for winter, and walked along the mangroves to catch a glimpse of the many unique animals that inhabited there, such as mudskippers, fiddler crabs and snails. It was amazing to see all these beautiful creatures in one afternoon.

As the sun set, we left the Wetland Park and returned to campus around 6 pm. All enjoyed the outing very much, and some were already requesting an encore! Thank you all for your support!



45 of us enjoyed a fine afternoon at the Hong Kong Wetland Park.

Upcoming PSA Events

Notice of the 2010 Annual General Meeting of St. Mary's Past Students' Association

Date : 20 March 2010 (Saturday)
Time : 3:30 pm
Venue : Geography Room, 2/F Marian Building, SMCC

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting held on 7 March 2009
2. Chairman's Report
3. Adoption of the Financial Report for the last financial year
4. Any Other Business

Note: Proxy forms can be downloaded from www.stmaryspsa.org.

All members are welcome to join.

School News - St. Mary's 110th Anniversary Open Day

To celebrate our School's 110th Anniversary, St. Mary's Canossian School and St. Mary's Canossian College jointly held the 110th Anniversary Open Day "Kaleidoscope of Student Life" on 6 & 7 February 2010.

In the morning of 6 February, a Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by Bishop John Tong in the Rosary Church to thank our Heavenly Father for His protection and guidance in the past, and pray that He may continue to bless and guide St. Mary's and all members of this big family in the years to come.



The Thanksgiving Mass with The Most Rev. John Tong being the Celebrant, and co-celebrants Rev. John B. Tsang, Rev. Francis M. Bakongo, Rev. Philip Chan, Rev. Simon Li and Rev. Stephen Lee, assisted by Deacon Joseph Sung.



The SMPSA game stall attracted hundreds of visitors during the two days.

With the honorary presence of Mrs. Jacqueline Ling, Chief School Development Officer of the Yau Tsim Mong District, the Open Day Opening Ceremony was held at the playground in front of the Magdalene Building right after the Thanksgiving Mass. Various stalls were set up in the playground displaying the creativity and collaboration of different student groups.

Forums, presentations and performances showcasing our students' achievements and talents in different areas took place on campus.

The Past Students' Association (SMPSA) also shared the fun. We ran a stall themed "110 Back to the School" which offered games and souvenir sales. Crowds of parents, students, alumnae and other visitors dropped by and filled our stall with laughter and fond memories. On one side of our stall, many past St. Marians



Almost there, be careful...aiya!! Young participants having fun with friends and family.



Our stall keepers at the end of two funful days... exhausted but would still like to say....HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ST. MARY'S!

shared with us bits and pieces of their good old days in St. Mary's while flipping through our photo book "Under the Banner". On the other side, numerous visitors queued up for our game to challenge themselves to skilfully transport a volleyball to each of the five designated boxes representing the five buildings on campus - the St. Michael Building, the Main Building, the Marian Building, the Magdalene Building and the Bakhita Building. The game was very popular and attracted over 300 enthusiastic visitors in total!

It was a great experience seeing so many past St. Marians on the Open Day. Let's meet again later this year at the 110th Anniversary Dinner!

School News - Upcoming 110th Anniversary Events

SCHOOL DRAMA - "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"

Good news for drama fans! As part of the 110th Anniversary celebrations, SMCC will be presenting Shakespeare's famous comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, during the Drama Week from **19-24 April 2010**. The play is adapted and directed by Mr. Geoff Oliver, and tells the story of quarrelling lovers and feuding fairies.



Performances will begin at 7 pm on 19 April (Mon), 20 April (Tue), 22 April (Thu), 23 April (Fri, Gala Night) & 24 April (Sat), and will last about 2 hrs 15 mins including one interval. Tickets are on sale from 8 March, priced at HK\$100*, HK\$180*, HK\$250 and HK\$500 (* only available on 19, 20 & 22 April). For booking enquiries, please contact Ms. Queenie Cheng of the School Office at 2724 2771.



110th ANNIVERSARY SCHOOL CONCERT

Another highlight of our 110th Anniversary is our School Concert, which will be held on **29 June 2010 (Tue)** at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall. There will be a whole array of performances by the School Orchestra, the Chinese Orchestra, the Choirs, the Concert Band, the Percussion Ensemble and the Alumnae Choir, as well as a display of amazing talents of some of our alumnae including Dr. Teresa Suen (international harp performer); Miss Vanessa Wong (the youngest Gold Medal winner in the 7th International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz) and Miss Grace Yu (composer of songs for the school choirs and orchestras).



The SMCC Chinese Orchestra with Ms Viola Chan.

Tickets are priced at HK\$280, HK\$200 and HK\$120 and will be available at all URBTIX outlets starting 29 May 2010.



The SMCC School Choir with teacher Ms. Viola Chan.

Our Alma Mater would also like to take this opportunity to appeal for **alumnae donations to help sustain music development** at St. Mary's. Benefactors donating HK\$200 or above will be listed in the 110th Anniversary Concert booklet. To make a contribution please send a cheque made payable to "St. Mary's Canossian College" to Miss Rainbow Tse, St. Mary's Canossian College, 162 Austin Road, Kowloon on or before **21 May 2010**. Please state "Concert Donation" and mark your name clearly in block letters on the back of

the cheque. Do let us have your mailing address if a receipt is required for tax deduction purpose. For enquiries, please contact Ms. Rainbow Tse of the School Office at 2724 2771.

Class Reunion News

The **Class of 1962** had their 47th anniversary reunion gathering from 25-29 October 2009 in Shanghai, China. 48 participants, including spouses and a few friends, joined two dinners and shared a wonderful time together. There were classmates who flew in from 4 continents, a few of them getting together again after 50 years! The group is planning for their next reunion in 2012 which will be their 50th anniversary. Those interested please contact Margaret Chan at machansy@hotmail.com for details.



The Class of 62 at one of their reunion dinners in Shanghai.



The Class of 1969 at their reunion dinner.

The **Class of 1969** celebrated their 40th anniversary during 18-22 November 2009. Over 30 classmates from all over the world visited the school campus in the afternoon of 21 November together with Sr. Esther, their guest of honour. Dinner was attended by Sr. Esther and over 40 classmates, some joining from abroad. The activities also covered a side trip to Panyu by a small group as well as a tram party! Please contact Rosy Yung at rosy@sellsyourhome.com or Cynthia Wu at heungyuet@gmail.com to reconnect.

The **Class of 1959** celebrated their 50th anniversary with lots of activities. 11 classmates from Hong Kong, UK, Canada and US met in Toronto in early October 2009. Over 20 classmates from both the English and Chinese sections visited the school campus on 3 November, followed by lunch. Some girls from the Chinese section had a side trip to Zhongshan and Zhuhai from 4-6 November, while those from the English section had a reunion dinner on 6 November joined by Sr. Ida. Those who would like to reconnect please contact Rosemary Kao at rosemary_kao@hotmail.com.



The Class of 1959 on school campus during their reunion.

The **Class of 1970 (Chinese Section)** is planning to celebrate their 40th anniversary on 15-17 October 2010 in Hong Kong. Please contact Genevieve Kee Shiu Yee 紀少儀 at genevieve3388@gmail.com or Agnes Cheung Kit Man 張潔雯 at agnesc33@hotmail.com for details.

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.

St. Mary's 110th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

The St. Mary's PSA is delighted to organize the 110th Anniversary Celebration Dinner for our Alma Mater. This will be a great reunion opportunity for old friends, teachers and peers, and a memorable evening of warmth and fun with performances, lucky draw, games, gifts and souvenirs!

- Date** : 13 November 2010 (Sat)
Time : Reception 6 p.m. / Dinner 7 p.m.
Venue : Laguna Palace Restaurant (海逸皇宮大酒樓)
3/F, Fisherman's Wharf, 8 Laguna Verde Avenue, Hung Hom
Menu : Chinese style set dinner
Price : HK\$400 per ticket
Booking : Please fill in and return the following Reply Form latest by 31 October 2010



REPLY FORM

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

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

(A) Reservation Please where appropriate.

I would like to attend the Dinner and reserve the following seats:

<u>Ticket Price</u>	<u>Number of Seats</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
@HK\$400	_____	HK\$ _____

(Please reply before 31 October 2010)

1. Group booking is encouraged. Each table carries 12 seats.
2. Seating will be arranged on a first-come-first-served basis.
3. Reservation confirmation will be sent via email or telephone latest by 6 November 2010.
4. Please make the cheque crossed and payable to "St. Mary's Past Students' Association".

I would like to collect my ticket(s):

from the School Office
(recommended)

on site at the
Laguna Palace Restaurant

(B) Gift Sponsorship Please where appropriate.

I would also like to donate a gift/some gifts for lucky draw and/or table prizes.

Item: _____ X _____ pieces
Item: _____ X _____ pieces
Item: _____ X _____ pieces

1. Please reply before 30 September 2010 to allow time for necessary arrangements.
2. Kindly contact Ms. Queenie Cheng of the School Office at (852) 2724 2771 to arrange for collection.

(C) General Donation Please where appropriate.

I would like to make a separate donation in support of the St. Mary's Canossian College Development Fund. Enclosed is a cheque of _____.

Please tick here if a receipt for tax deduction purpose is required.

Name to be put on the receipt: _____

Cheque number: _____

Address for sending receipt:

1. Please make cheque crossed and payable to **"St. Mary's Canossian College"**.
2. Please specify at the back of the cheque that it is a donation for the "SMCC Development Fund".

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Kindly return this reply form together with your cheque(s) to
St. Mary's Past Students' Association, 162 Austin Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon

For enquiries - Email: activities@stmaryspsa.org Tel : (852) 2724 2771 Fax : (852) 2724 2719

**Thank you for your continuous support
to the PSA. The Exco wishes you and
your family a Happy Year of the Tiger!**

