



SMCS NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FAMILIES OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHOIR SCHOOL

OUR MISSION

St. Michael's Choir School is a Catholic Community whose primary mission is the education of young Christian gentlemen. At the centre of the community's academic effort to make the universe intelligible to growing minds is an experience of music for the praise of God in Jesus Christ.

**Bis Orat
Qui Cantat**

**He who sings
prays twice**

St. Michael's Choir School
67 Bond Street
Toronto, On M5B 1X2
Telephone: (416) 393-5518
Fax: (416) 393-5880

domnic.melino@tcdsb.org

www.smcs.on.ca



Hello everyone.

The April Newsletter is normally full of good news and this one will not disappoint you. First off, our elementary *Junior Volleyball* team won its divisional championship for the **seventh** consecutive year, Joey Jang – one of our Gr. 8 students came first in the TCDSB's *French Speaking Contest*, our intermediate W5H team won their preliminary pennant, our high school *Swim Team* came away with 3 gold and 2 silver medals at this year's championships, thanks to our continued fund-raising efforts

our *Dinner Dance* netted over \$14,000.00 for the upcoming tours, our Gr. 8 class created and displayed an outstanding *Science Fair*, two of our Gr. 8 students came in third place at this year's Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) Popsicle Stick Bridge Building competition, for the first time our intermediate *School Reach* team won the divisional title for the city of Toronto, we had the pleasure of listening to many wonderful Piano Recitals, our *vermi-composter* is up and running, members of the our *Benefit Choir* raised over \$1000.00 toward the Haiti relief effort, the choir's performance during Holy Week was outstanding, and for the second consecutive year our school was again recognized as a **School of Distinction** in the category of *Overall Academic Achievement* at this year's Garfield Weston Awards. Well done everyone!

For the second time in as many years it was a pleasure to see our hockey and swim programs up and running again. Many thanks to Mrs. Delgrosso and Mr. Ian Gillis for their time and extraordinary commitment. It's this type of exemplary dedication and perseverance that creates wonderful and lasting educational experiences for our students.

For secondary parents, please note that your son's mid-term *Ministry Report Card* is enclosed along with a parent/teacher interview form for our upcoming interviews on the afternoon and evening of April 22nd. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

All the best,

Domnic Melino
Principal



CSAC Update

By: J. Walker, Co-Chair

Wow ... what more can be said for our boys' contribution to Holy Week this year. They were wonderful.

And now, we look forward to a busy spring. Many things are happening at the Choir School these days. We have Tour for both the Junior and Senior Choirs this month, and then before we know it, it will be time for Confirmation and Graduation for our Grade 8s and 12s.

As the year quickly progresses, we look forward to more news with regards to the incoming leadership on both sides of the street. It was very nice to have Bernice Brand, Superintendent of Education, at our last meeting. She was very open to our concerns and input in regard to the urgency in finding a principal for the academic school. This year, more than ever, it is important that the parents' voices are heard. Please consider coming out to Town Halls and CSAC meetings to keep abreast of changes.

Speaking of which, at our next CSAC meeting, we will be discussing the Extended French Program at the school. Specifically, we will be looking for parents to volunteer for a sub-committee to assess this program. We want to know how many "doors open" with this education. And we want to know whether the benefits gained outweigh any additional stresses and workloads that the program adds to our boys' lives. Please mark your calendars and come out to have your opinion heard.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 5th. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHARACTER RECOGNITION



The virtue recognized for the month of February was LOVE. Congratulations to the following certificate recipients: Jack Flannery (Gr. 3), Lauren Cabral (Gr. 4), Matthew Notarfonzo (Gr. 5), Sebastian Gayowsky (Gr. 6), Kevin Wong (Gr. 7), Michael Johnston (Gr. 8)

EcoSchool Update

By: Mme Lo Curto

A year at a glance....

A group of young St. Michael's Choir School environmentalists came together a year ago in April 2009. Their humble beginning started by cleaning up the school yard on Earth Day and then they answered a call by Sister Gwen at the Mustard Seed on Queen and Parliament to help clean up the community vegetable garden. Two boys joined Mme LoCurto and climbed the CN Tower to raise awareness and money for the World Wildlife Federation in the name of endangered species. September 2009 brought us together with great determination to create an EcoClub that would focus all our efforts on Ontario EcoSchool Certification. Well "another year older and another one just begun" we can proudly say that we have come a long way! Our EcoClub has spearheaded a "Litterless lunch" campaign that has reduced garbage and increased environmental respect. We have audited our garbage, recorded our garbage and reduced our garbage. Further, our red wigglers are eating our food scraps i.e. egg shells, coffee filters and coffee grounds, orange and banana peels, apple cores and other leftover lunch remains. To date, our energy consumption has been audited and examined and plans are in the works to reduce our energy use. Our team has visited classrooms and delivered powerful PowerPoint presentations that educate while promoting environmental awareness. Our "Tip of the Week" announcements remind us that we can all do our part everyday by making informed and conscientious choices that benefit our environment. Let's not forget how our entire school community participated in the www.350.org march on Bond and Shuter where we showed the city that we are prepared to lead the way! There are 75 TCDSB schools trying for certification. We hope to meet the challenge. Keep up the good work! Pack those litterless lunches, make use of the stainless steel bottles that so many of you have purchased and be mindful of turning off the lights whenever the room is not in use. We ask you to take the "Power Pledge" when our EcoClub members come to offer you the invite. We must all do our part to make this a better world. Let's all be "EcoHeros".



High School Swim Season 2009/ 2010

By: Johann Licht.

This year's high school swim season was a tremendous success. First and foremost, I would like to thank our Coaches, Mr. Gillis and Mr. Woodger, for enabling us to have the opportunity of having a swim team for the high school. This year, I think a suitable phrase for describing

our team would be "quality over quantity". Having only a four man team, consisting of Jean Picotte, Alex Mathews, Ben Mackenzie and myself, we started training and enjoyed the fact that we didn't even have to try out for any of our events! Mr. Woodger, being a great swimmer as well, drilled us hard at practice to prepare us for the swim meet in February.

When we walked into the Etobicoke Olympium, there were teams of 60 to 100 members chanting their cheers, so when our humble team entered, I think it's fair to say we were a bit intimidated. However, as soon as the first starting horn went, it was clear that the swimming skill didn't depend on the size of the team. Soon, we had won three gold medals and two silvers with a small but talented team!

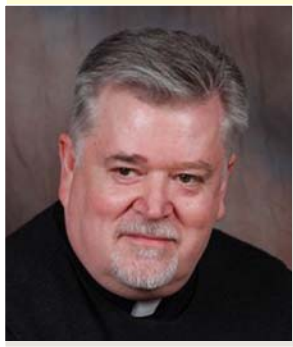
All in all, the season concluded well and the crowd started to appreciate that St. Michael's Choir School doesn't just sing; we also swim.

St. Michael's Choir School is pleased to announce that **The Angel Foundation for Learning**, the charitable organization devoted to assisting needy students within TCDSB schools, has approved our school's funding request of \$500.00 in support of our Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo Trip.

Serving TCDSB students and making a positive difference, we congratulate The Angel Foundation for Learning for helping over **300,000** students since its inception in 1987. Currently they continue to serve over 25,000 students annually.

Donations to the Foundation are welcome and can be sent to: The Angel Foundation for Learning, 80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, ON M2N 6E8. Tax receipts for donations of \$10.00 or more will be issued. For more information about the Foundation visit www.angelfoundationforlearning.org





A Message from the Rector,

Fr. Michael Busch

Easter has come and gone, and we continue to move forward toward Pentecost, Confirmation, the end of the school year and graduation. It has been a difficult year in some ways, but a good one in other ways. I continue to receive positive and glowing comments about our Easter services and I thank everyone from conductors to teachers, to parents and most especially the boys themselves who work so hard to make our liturgies so spiritually uplifting.

As we move closer to the end of this school year I know there are many unanswered questions about what will happen next year. Will we have a new Director in place? Who will the new Principal be? How will the changes impact upon the academic, music and choral programs? I understand how frustrating this process has been for all of us. Change, especially change of this magnitude can be very unsettling especially when it seems that our concerns are not being addressed as quickly as we would like.

As I said at the last Town Hall meeting, this is a long process and one that must not be rushed if we expect to do it right. It is not just a matter of hiring someone to fill a job. There needs to be a clear understanding about the interaction of the various administrative roles in the school in order to define the expectations and responsibilities that will make up the role of the Director of the Choir school.

I have formed a committee to begin the search for a new Director. We will begin our meetings soon. One of the new parent representatives on the advisory board will be a member of this committee. The first part of our mandate will be to develop a general plan for the relationship of the Principal, Rector and Director and how the private and academic school will interact. There must be clearer descriptions of each role and an outline of responsibilities, duties and boundaries in order to properly recruit candidates for the Director position. This will also serve as the framework for on going discussion between the new Principal, Director and the Rector once they are in place.

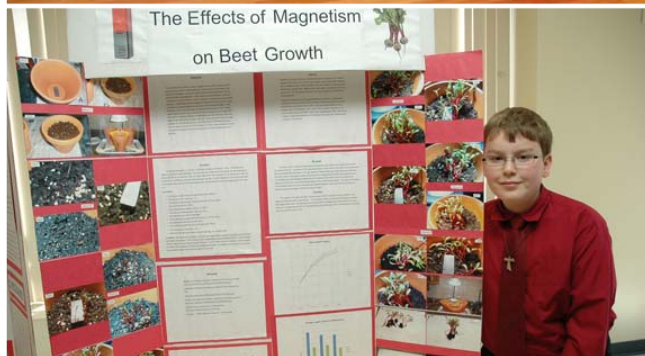
This process has been taking longer than we thought at first, and I will do what I can to expedite it. But we cannot rush it; we need to take our time and build a stronger relationship between the faith, music and academic leadership of the school, one that will carry us well into the future.



DINNER DANCE 2010 A GREAT SUCCESS!

Many thanks to the following committee members for making it all possible:

Ed Coutinho , Laura Paties, Leslie Lindsay, Grace Morgado, Michael Ortelli, Catherine Bishop, Jennifer Walker, George Vicente, Cindy Gauvreau, Nofry Pilla, Domnic Melino, Katheryn Oswin-Groh and Robert Berringer.



FIRST ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR A GREAT SUCCESS!

by: James Profiti, Aidan Curran and Michael Johnston

On Friday, March 26th, the 2010 grade eight class had the honour of participating in the first annual SMCS Science Fair in over ten years. Projects ranging from Earth Sciences, to Human Biology, to Engineering and Chemistry were presented to the grade eleven judges and later to the elementary grades. Prizes and certificates were awarded to the top three graded projects. 3rd place was awarded to Bryan Igreja and Truman Kwan for their project on water purification, 2nd place went to Aidan Curran for his project on deforestation and 1st place went to James Profiti for his project on the effects of magnetism on beet growth. Many thanks to Mr. Lewis for his hard work and generous support in organising the Science Fair.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOOL REACH CHAMPIONS!

By: A. McMillan (Teacher Moderator)

SCHOOL REACH is a nation wide secondary school competition which tests the participants' general knowledge and awareness of current events. Our intermediate team won the city-wide tournament, competing against such prestigious, academic schools as UTS, Ursula Franklyn and Royal St. George Academy. Congratulations to team members Joseph Gauvreau, Raymond Cuyegkeng, Yanni Pantis, Ryan Nunes, Christian Martin, Kijana Mitchell, Alixander Pawluk (absent) and a special thanks to team member Andrew Walker whose strategies and encouragement made all the difference!

SMCS INTERMEDIATE HOCKEY 2010



A FUN AND ENJOYABLE SEASON!!!

By Dugald Campbell (Gr. 7 Student)

The buzzer goes! St Mikes wins! That's what happened at one of the St. Michael's Choir Schools Spartans most recent game against St Denis. 9-7 was the final score in the exciting game, our first win of the season.

Every Friday after school for the past few months, 19 of our students would practice at Moss Park arena in preparation for something like this. Our first chance to show our skills and talents was at the TCDSB tournament at Canlan ice rinks on March 11th. Despite our teams best efforts, we lost every game. I personally think the team did a great job and tried their hardest until the end.

Our next match was against St. Denis at our home rink. Happily we won, bringing great joy to the team. In the first period, we scored 4 goals thanks to Gerard Manella, David Snowden, Christian Pandoff, and Alexander Augimeri. That period St. Denis scored 3 goals. In the second period, St. Denis nearly caught up scoring 2 goals but we managed to keep on top with goals from Andrew Clifford, another from Alexander Augimeri, and Colin Granitto. In the third we were still ahead but St. Denis scored a goal midway through. We scored 2 more but in the end St. Denis finished with one more. Our two goals that period were scored by Michael Del Grosso and another by Alexander Augimeri.

Our last few games came at the second TCDSB Tournament on April 8th. In order to move to the finals we had to win three of the four games. We managed to win the first two games but lost the others.

In closing, on behalf of the team, I'd like to thank all those individuals who made this hockey season possible especially Mrs. Rosanna Del Grosso and Mr. Brendan Cribari our great coach. It's been a great season and I'm sure that the team will be happy to get back on the ice again next year.



Coach's Corner
Ms. W. Thorne, Vocal Coach

Spring has sprung! Warm wind, green grass, budding trees, tulips and... lots of yelling in the playground! It's very difficult, as excitement begins to build toward the end of the school year, but it's important to keep vigilant about vocal use outdoors. I will remind boys when I see them about how important it is to keep the volume at a minimum. Parents, when

you think of it, please remind them as well. It is so helpful when it comes from as many sources as possible. Volume, more than any other factor, is extremely hard on the vocal muscles.

I have been pleased this school year to observe that many of the boys, both elementary and senior, have been taking care of their voices and are in good vocal health. Mr. Mahon and I continue to see boys regularly and will continue to do so until the end of the year, to monitor voices, help with vocal development and to assist with boys experiencing voice change.

Last Thursday, April 8th we were pleased to have Gwen Merrick, Speech Language Pathologist from St Michael's Hospital Vocal Clinic, join us for a Vocal Health Workshop. The information that she brought us is useful for so many. Singers, teachers, public speakers, ministers would all benefit from the practical knowledge that she offered. She also held a Q&A time and even gave us all exercises that we could work on. I want to thank you all for the interest that you expressed and for the great turn-out that we had. This was definitely the best attended workshop yet! We highly value our relationship with the Voice Clinic and look forward to seeing Ms Merrick in the school again. Please feel free, as always, to contact me with questions or if you need information.

wanda.thorne@tcdsb.org



FUTURE ENGINEERS PUT TO THE TEST!

By: Andrew Di Santo (Gr. 8 Student)

This is the second year that our school has participated in the Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) Popsicle Stick Bridge Building Competition. We were given a single week to construct our bridge so Tim Aure and I started working on it right away. Rules were to create a bridge entirely out of Popsicle sticks and glue while keeping within the required dimensions and weight.

After several attempts at different versions of the bridge, we finally decided on one model and managed to complete it just in time for the competition date. There were 26 qualified teams in the senior category. Rankings were decided by judging and performance. We briefly answered all of the questions that all five judges' had on how we made the bridge and the science behind it. The judges gave us a score of 89% which gave us a ranking of 3rd place.

Our bridge withstood a peak force of 740 Newtons and weighed 238 grams. Dividing the Force by the Mass of the bridge gave us a performance of 3.11 N/g and a ranking of 5th place. We truly enjoyed the 2010 PEO Popsicle Stick Bridge Building Competition. We thank our parents for all their support we would also like to thank Mr. Lewis for making it all possible.

All the scores along with pictures can be viewed online at:
<http://www.scarborough.peo.on.ca/>