



# 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**

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Hello everyone,

A newsletter in the middle of June is somewhat unusual, but we have had so many activities going on in the past month, our end of year newsletter would have to be at least 8 pages long to report it all.

First of all, I would like to relay an announcement made by the *Board of Directors* regarding important changes in management responsibility of the music school. Please note that Father Peter Tammearu has been appointed as Rector of the Choir School to replace Father John Mark Missio who will be undertaking further graduate studies. Many of you will recall that Father Peter taught piano and theory here at the Choir School from September 2005 to June 2007. In addition to Father Peter's appointment, the Board of Directors have also appointed Katheryn Trainor to support Father Tammearu

as the new Administrative Director of the Choir School, effective July 1, 2009. The music and academic entities of the Choir School operate as a "partnership". That partnership, based on a shared Mission and Vision, has always been strong, and I am confident that the same will be true in the future.

I have always been proud to be the principal of St. Michael's Choir School but even more so being on tour this past month. We had a terrific tour, superbly organized by Francis Cichocki and her committee of parents and teachers. The tour was full of activities and memorable performances. What pleased me most was the level of maturity and cooperation that our students displayed at all times.

I am happy to report that we had a very successful *Bambino* this year. The strong reputation of the school continues to attract more and more applicants. As well, the new procedure of having separate vocal auditions followed by the academic tests has not only enhanced the efficiency of the process, it has also increased the retention rate of those applicants who have been offered a placement. The upside is that we have a nominal roll of students who are our first choice, and we also have a healthy waiting list. This bodes well for the future of the Choir School.

Regarding staffing, you will recall that Mr. La Pointe was not immediately replaced upon his retirement; due mainly to the teacher surplus situation at the time. This year, the staffing process has been far more accommodating, and starting this September Mr. Giacomo Tarascio will be joining our elementary staff. Mr. Tarascio is currently teaching core French at St. Dorothy C.S. and St. Stephen C.S., in Rexdale. Welcome Mr. Tarascio!

Lastly, please note that the closing ceremonies Parts 1 & 2 are scheduled for Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Part I will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Ryerson University Engineering building while part II is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral. While everyone is required to attend part II, I would like to remind all parents that you are most welcome to attend Part I as well.

All the best,

Domnic Melino  
Principal





### A Message from Phil Horgan, CSAC Co-Chair

At our last CSAC meeting, we were informed that the school has filled most if not all available places for new students for next year, and that some senior students have also been accepted for entrance in high school. A new cafeteria service provider will need to be found for next fall. The cafeteria service is a real benefit for many families, but it is a position which is difficult to fill, owing to the relatively small numbers of students. The CSAC topped up the funds to be used to buy new computers for the computer lab, in order to

acquire better quality monitors. Arrangements are in place to hold the used clothing sale during the first week of school in September.

While the Choir School boasts of an above average level of participation by volunteers from the parent community, there is always room for more. Perhaps you could assist at the end of year festivities, or make your particular talents in graphic design or marketing known to the school, to assist when those talents are needed.

In terms of service, as the end of the school year is upon us, I want to recognize the graduating class of 2009 for their many years of commitment to the school and its choirs. Many of the boys have spent as many as ten years at SMCS. In that time, they have had a unique opportunity to complete their studies, while contributing to the services of the cathedral and to the cultural milieu of the city. They now join an impressive group of alumni. We hope and pray that they will be graduates of distinction, and that they enjoy every success in their future studies and vocations.

It is also a time to bid adieu to many parents who may likewise be "graduating" to the next stage of their family's life. We acknowledge their time, talents, and commitment, and wish all of them well in their future endeavours. There are a few parents who have served the CSAC in that category, including Michel Carroll and Joanne Kular - many thanks for your years of service.

We also take a moment to acknowledge the staff for their contributions of skills, leadership, and devoted service to our sons. In particular, we will be saying good bye to Father John Mark Missio, who will pursue graduate studies going forward, and continuing his priestly ministry. We also express our sympathies to Father Missio and his family at the passing of his father, Aldo, on April 23 after a lengthy illness.

In early June, we take a moment to remember events such as D-Day from 65 years ago, or from more recent memory, the Tiananmen Square massacre, where individuals who were roughly the same age as our high school graduates had the courage to take a stand for important freedoms that we often take for granted. It is argued that the famous young man who stood in the way of 4 tanks heading to Tiananmen Square on June 5, 1989, gave inspiration to many protestors in eastern Europe, leading to the remarkable demise of communism in the eastern bloc, and the removal of the Berlin Wall later that year. Actions have consequences, and we are unaware in many cases of the ripple effect of those actions.

This graduating class remembered our glorious warriors in a moving Remembrance Day service last fall. While the same sacrifices may not be demanded of them in 2009, we know that they will be tested in a variety of ways in their futures, from a culture that speaks more of providing entitlements than of making sacrifices for others and the common good.

May they lead lives of true service as "men for others".

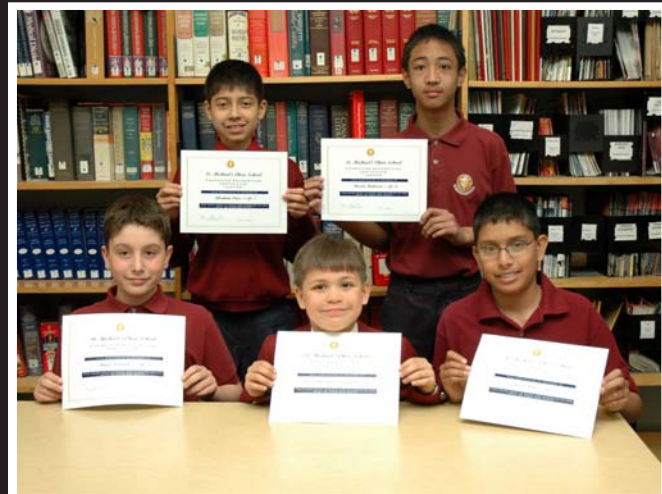


### "TITANIC TEA" CONTINUES TO BE A SUCCESS!

Friday May 1st., was a special day for our grade 3 class.

They not only hosted a wonderful monthly Mass in the Cathedral, they also hosted their moms for the annual Mother's Day tea. It is now a tradition that the theme be that of the *Titanic*, which coincidentally, is the final novel study that the boys undertake in term three. Many thanks to Mr. Collins for making it all happen.

## CHARACTER RECOGNITION



The virtue recognized for the month of April was **JUSTICE**. Congratulations to the following recipients: Timo Lahteenmaa-Swerdlyk (Gr. 3), Aaron Hernandez (Gr. 4), David Fernandes (Gr. 5), Baxter Baltazar (Gr. 6), Abraham Pinos (Gr. 7), Ryan



## 2009 TOUR

Ryan Knowles (Gr. 11)

We're finally back! The tour was amazing, but there's still no place like home. We had an extraordinary tour, directed by the kindest chaperones the school has to offer, and some even more amazing, like recently retired Mr. Dominique Rousselle, and Mrs. Francis Cichocki. Our tour took us through some of the greatest cities in Ontario and Quebec, including Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec City. Throughout all of this tour, we ceased to be students and teachers; we became family. A family that doesn't always agree amongst itself, but a family none the less. We even managed to get some of the teachers in on a game of tag! It wasn't all fun and games though. We rose to the challenge of every concert, mass, and sing-off against other choirs. Sometimes we would randomly pull off of the highway, arrive at a church, sing one or two pieces of music, and then leave before anyone had any idea what was happening. I would like to thank all the chaperones for their dedication, and for being able to loosen up this close to final exams. I would also like to thank the host parents for putting up with us through the crazy week. All in all, it was a memorable week that may yet be topped next year. I've heard rumours of BC and one of the territories, so I can't wait.

## Home-School Connection

### June 2009 - Virtue of the Month: Faithfulness

During the month of June the SMCS community will explore the virtue of "faithfulness". Saint Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, names faithfulness as the seventh fruit of the Holy Spirit. Faithfulness, in this context, is both a reference to person's conviction of belief and one's fidelity or reliability.

**As a family, find opportunities throughout the month of June to discuss the following:**

- Am I always faithful to the teachings of Jesus?
- What things or people in my life make it difficult for me to be a faithful disciple of Jesus?
- Am I a reliable friend or am I a friend of convenience?

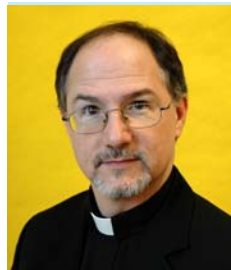
**Parental Praxis: Something to think about...**

- As my child's primary educator, how does my faithfulness mirror that of God's?
- As my child's primary educator, do I provide my child regular opportunities to engage in faithful discipleship?
- As my child's primary educator, how do I encourage my child to be faithful to his relationships and commitments to family members and friends?

## Prayer Time

### Prayer Time

Lord,  
send out your Spirit,  
so that we may be faithful to the  
promises we made at baptism.  
Like the martyrs and saints,  
help us to be steadfast in our  
commitment to you,  
made visible in our service to those  
around us.  
Amen



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is my last column for the Choir School monthly newsletter. The thought brings both sadness and excitement about my next adventure. My time at the Choir School has been a tremendously rich experience, full of the kind of challenges that have made for a rewarding tenure as director. One could hardly find a more stimulating environment, with a standard of musical excellence always held before

us, and the standard of the communion of Christian charity as our even greater goal.

The music and the musicians have weaved an intricate counterpoint through these past seven years. The gems of sacred choral music from all ages stand out in my memory as the precious stones woven into the brocade of an elaborate liturgical vestment; the brocade is wound together by the golden thread of lives of musicians young and old. The lives are indeed threads because we trace the course of choristers growing, weaving through challenges, becoming intertwined and spreading out into the fabric of society; teachers and conductors direct the flow in their own weaving and thus secure the gemstones to the fabric.

Up close, we often think we are the artisans; but from afar we see rather the hand of a master Creator at work. You and I have been among of the weavers for a time, and I thank all of you for the privilege of working within the fabric of the Choir School in my service to the Archdiocese of Toronto. In your prayer intentions, please remember me from time to time as I languish in academia, as I sometimes wonder if I am up to all the reading and writing I will be required to do in my doctoral studies. I will be sure to keep the school family and its mission in my prayers, and I will be a vocal advocate for the work of the Choir School wherever I am, particularly in my upcoming work at St. Augustine's Seminary once my studies are complete.



Recent events (clockwise from top left): Sam Codrington (Gr. 8) running cross country, Joshua (Gr. 3) and Jeremy (Gr. 6) Francis celebrating, Nico Velenzuela (Gr. 9) playing a mean guitar during Jam Night 2009, Joey Jang (Gr. 7) winning the relay at the divisional track and field championships.

## SMCS TENNIS PROGRAM

Damien Macedo (Gr. 10)

For the first time in a number of years, St. Michael's Choir School has established a tennis team. Through the coordinated efforts of Mr. Melino, Mr. Berringer, Dr. Awachie and myself, practices were organized and students from grades 9, 10, and 11 were invited to play. Mr. Melino approved the use of the gymnasium and provided funds to buy lightly-used equipment. Though slightly worn, these were professional standard racquets, and proved to be an invaluable asset in realizing the potential of the players. Now we were beginning to look like a team.

In May an intramural tournament was arranged at *Moss Park* to provide the players with some much needed experience. The tournament results were as follows: 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Robert Painço - grade 10; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Stefan Wojcik - grade 10; and 1<sup>st</sup> place, Michael Remedios - grade 11. Congratulations to all the participants, we saw some excellent matches and all of you, with no exception, improved your tennis skills over the course of this year.

Finally, a special thanks to Dr. Awachie, Mr. Berringer, M. Milani, and Mr. Woodger for volunteering their time to supervise our practices and overseeing the tournament. Thank you also to James Garcia, our head ball boy and Liam Colbert, Daryl Lopez, Robert Painço, and Alvin Tsou, our assistant ball boys. Once again, congratulations and best wishes to all participants. I hope to see you all out on the courts come September.



## BAKE SALE UPDATE

Weillie Shen (CSAC member)

Dear Parents:

This spring bake sale was very successful. We made a net profit of \$609.18. We sold all our baked goods and pizza before the schedule time. However, we received much less baked goods this time than in November 2008. This is probably due to our parents' pre-occupation with the spring concert, since both events were scheduled in the same week.

Homemade baked goods are extremely welcome. Special thanks to Marlene Murphy, Tim's mom, Gr. 9, who made a delicious pineapple cake which was sold very quickly at the Saturday's sale. When she heard the news of the popularity of her cake, she baked a second cake for the following morning. In addition to the cakes, she also provided four beautiful muffin baskets for the sale. Thanks for her generosity. Thanks for all who made this spring bake sale happen: For our parents, who provided all kinds of beautiful baked goods; For Ms. Daley and our Junior Choir mothers, for the use of the auditorium; For Mrs. Rachel Papa, Lorenzo's Mom, taking over the choir mother's duty; For our principal, Mr. Melino who helped announcing the bake sale in the morning announcement; Our secretary, Ms. Lucy, who helped announce the bake sale news to our parents; Our caretaker, Cellino, who helped to setup the tables; Our members of the Parent Council for their support and encouragement; Fr. Missio, for his constant care and support; Our Pastoral Associate, Theresa, who publicized the bake sale in the bulletin and arranged for the bake sale to be announced before and after each Mass on the dates of the bake sale.

Finally, a special thanks for our volunteer moms:

**Joey Roque**, Ronan's mom, Gr 5, who helped at the Saturday bake sale and Sunday morning set-up.

**Lillian Nwachukwu**, C.J.'s mom, Gr 3, who helped the Saturday bake sale.

**Grace Morgado**, Felipe's mom, Gr 10, who helped the Saturday and Sunday bake sale.

**Monlan Loo**, Kevin's Mom, Gr 6, who printed price tags and helped the Sunday bake sale.

**Cathy Lam**, Michael's Mom, Gr 5, who helped on Sunday.

Should you have any questions, concerns and suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are looking forward to having another successful bake sale in fall 2009. Let's work together and bake more goodies for the fall bake sale in November, 2009.

Thanks & Salute to all our parents

Weillie (416-769-8433) [weillieshen@hotmail.com](mailto:weillieshen@hotmail.com))

Member of SMCS Parent Council

On Wednesday May 27, 2009, all students in grades 8 to 11 cast their ballots for the 2009/2010 student council. Congratulations to the following individuals and best wishes for a successful year ahead.

### St. Michael's Choir School Student Council 2009-2010

|                    |   |                 |          |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|----------|
| PRESIDENT          | - | Matthew Farahat | (Gr. 11) |
| VICE-PRESIDENT     | - | Joey Cowan      | (Gr. 10) |
| SECRETARY          | - | Max May         | (Gr. 11) |
| TREASURER          | - | Michael Colla   | (Gr. 10) |
| SOCIAL JUSTICE REP | - | Alvin Tsou      | (Gr. 10) |
| JUNIOR REP         | - | Patrick Parro   | (Gr. 08) |
| SPORTS REP         | - | Aidan Gunda     | (Gr. 09) |

## Partners in Education

**SUPERINTENDENT:**  
Ms. Bernice Brand,  
(416) 222-8282 ex.2730



### Trustee 2009-2010

#### WARDS

1. Joseph Martino
2. Ann Andrachuk
3. Sal Piccininni
4. Mary Cicogna
5. Maria Rizzo
6. Rob Davis
7. John Del Grande

8. Mary Ann Robillard
  9. **Catherine LeBlanc-Miller,**  
(416) 512-3409
  10. Barbara Poplawski
  11. Angela Kennedy
  12. Paul John Crawford
- James Dempsey,  
Student Trustee