



SMCS Newsletter

A Newsletter for the Families of St Michael's Choir School

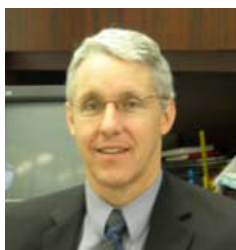
May 2011

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*

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Principal's Greeting



Happy Easter to Everyone in Our school Community! As Christians, we celebrate the joy of the Resurrection throughout the Easter season. The leaves on the trees and the long awaited return of lovely weather help us better appreciate the grace of renewal. Our choristers, both current and alumni, sang beautifully during Holy Week. We turn our attention now to the upcoming Junior and Senior tours.

As you can see from the items in this edition, students have been busy both in the classroom and with extra-curricular activities. It is impressive how many activities are going on and how the boys manage to juggle their various demands. Students continue to represent our school so well, not only in the Cathedral Every weekend, but also in the pool, at chess tournaments, W5H competitions, at cross-country meets and with Social Justice projects. Our Junior High School Volleyball team is on an undefeated winning streak and seems to be on its way to a City championship! Our young men continue to find outlets for their creativity in the after-school Art Club, on stage with the Junior production of 'Geronimo Stilton' and in preparation for the much anticipated Jam Night coming up on June 3rd. This active pace will continue after tour with the final stretch of curricula and year end activities.

Barry White

CSAC News

Our green thumb brigade of parent volunteers has been busy on the weekend landscaping and gardening in front of the school. Please join us for our next CSC meeting which will take place on Wednesday, June 8 when we will be wrapping up business for the year.

In the interest of saving paper and reaching you directly, the newsletter is sent to all families electronically. If you would like a hard copy of this newsletter, please just let us know.

~ Music News ~

Director's Message

There is an Arab proverb: "He that knows not and knows not that he knows not, is a foolish man – pass him by: He that knows



not and knows that he knows not is a prudent man – help him; He that knows and knows that he knows is a genius – follow him." As we reach the final leg of our first year together, I find myself in the second group of men and I thank the entire Choir School community for your support, suggestions, questions and comments over the past months.

The month of April was filled with great activity culminating in a most moving and uplifting Holy Week. The Easter Vigil and Sunday morning masses demonstrate with certainty the power that sacred choral music has on worship and the faithful. Our boys exemplified the words of St. Augustine: Bis Orat, qui Cantat – those who sing, pray twice.

Recital season continues into the month of May. So far, we have rejoiced with instrumental recitals in piano, guitar, and violin. This month we will be feted with the music of organ students and young men who study voice independently. This 'other side' of our music education curriculum cannot be underestimated. Instrumental and vocal studies are an integral aspect of a complete musical education along with the study of theoretical music. Performance recitals provide an avenue for individual expression and growth beyond what is accomplished on the choral concert stage.

Tours, both Junior and Senior are now on the horizon. What an exciting time this is! The Choir School's traveling classroom engages our boys to be ambassadors of their school, their families, their city and country. Each young man will experience touring differently but the shared experience of caring for one another and sharing the gift of music with others is truly priceless. I know the boys will return with stories galore and with memories to last a lifetime.

I am pleased to announce that on Monday June 13 at 7:00pm, I will make a general presentation to parents about the budget for next academic year. All are welcome to attend.

Finally, I extend congratulations to the members of the graduating class for their excellent concert performance this week at the Loretto Abbey Spring Concert. Audience comments confirm that our young men have a commitment to excellence which is definitely worth celebrating.

Warm wishes for a happy Easter season.

Most sincerely,

Matthew Warszawski

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the young men and parents of the Choir School community. My name is Matthew Warszawski and I am an alumnus of the class of 1990. It is my privilege and honour to be back at the Choir School as

the Director of Development and Communications. I started at the beginning of April and have hit the ground running. I very much look forward to hearing from you and I can be contacted through the Choral Office at (416) 397-6367 ext 6043

or you can always drop by my office at 66 Bond Street on the 2nd floor. My office is right beside the Chapel.

- Matthew Warszawski

P.O.S.T News ~ Upcoming Events

Organ Recitals

Thursday May 5th -Students of Mr.O'Meara,Mr.Daly,Mr.Kekely,Mr.Belic.

Vocal Recitals

Thursday, June 2nd, 2011 -Students of Mrs.Arab 7:00 pm in the Auditorium

Exams

RCM Theory Exams are scheduled for May

Organ and Piano Exams are scheduled for early June

~ Athletic News ~

Cross Country

I am so proud of our Cross Country team this year. Here are the members of our Team 2011: Alexander Augimeri, Alec Ierullo-Woloszczac, Marco Lai, Andrew Clifford, Connor Flannery, Matthew Lam, Levi Morrissy, Brendan Arranda-Brown, Thomas Clifford, Francesco Mannella, Stefan Vercillo, Michael Jagassar and Luc Randmaa. They were a small and loyal group who believed in the pursuit of excellence through diligence, perseverance and practice. They showed up for early morning practice and

they warmed up to the music of "Alors on danse", and climbed stairs to the sounds of "Waka Waka" and cooled down to "Hold On". Thank you to all the parents who made an extra effort to helping their son get to practice on time. I would like to congratulate all our runners for their stamina and the sportsmanlike behaviour they showed by encouraging and supporting each other. A special thanks to Mrs. Flannery for providing hot chocolate during a cold and windy meet. All our runners placed in both the divisional and regional

meets. Our regional representatives were Alexander Augimeri, Andrew Clifford, Connor Flannery, Matthew Lam, Levy Morrissy, Thomas Clifford, Stefan Vercillo and Luc Randmaa. Please join me in sending our support to these two students who will be representing SMCS at the City Finals on May 4th; Alexander Augimeri (gr. 8- 6th place) and Luc Randmaa (gr. 4- 11th place). Thanks for a great season. Special thank you to David Simon for volunteering his time to the cross country meet.
Mme Lo Curto
(proud coach)

Volleyball

Junior High School Volleyball

This year has seen the culmination of five years of hard work by our junior high school volleyball team. The present team, represented heavily by boys from our grade 10 class, is by far the best sports team our school has had in a decade. As of this writing they are undefeated in their season games, winners of the Monsignor Johnson tournament and second place in the St. Michael's College tournament. They now have a good chance at being the league champions. This group began playing as a team in grade 5 under the tutelage of Mr Melino and Coach Christian Redmond. In the last few years Coach Rod Humana took over and has brought the team to a championship level of play.



The team celebrates the first place finish at the

Club Training

One of the methods for training is working with Coach Rod on the club team, the X-Men that train in our gym on two evenings a week. Boys playing in the elementary division, who seriously want to pursue excellence in this sport, are encouraged to look into joining this club.

Junior Elementary and Intermediate Volleyball

The training ground for the success of the high school teams rests in the elementary school. We have our junior elementary team, comprised of boys from grades 5 and 6 and the intermediate team, comprised of boys from grades 7 and 8. Both teams represented the school well and although they didn't walk away with any pennants this year, acquitted themselves very well in the tournaments they entered.

Basketball

Congratulations to the members of our Junior Elementary Basketball team who represented our school well at the Divisional tournament at St John's on April 12th : Robert, Paolo, Declan, Carmine, Adrian, Adam, Derek, Aaron and Francesco.



~ Club News ~

Intermediate W5H

Our Intermediate W5H Team, comprised of seven students in Grade 7 and 8, competed well at the preliminary round at St. Paul, allowing them to move to the divisional round. At the divisionals, they lost a close game to St. Bonaventure, but they still advanced to the South Regional competition at St. Michael's Catholic School, where they met the team from St. Bonaventure in a rematch. After facing difficult questions from all different disciplines, our foursome were edged out by two points, earning them the silver trophy in the South Region. Overall, it was a fun season filled with many fast fingers, mind blocks, and tons of laughter. A big thank you is also extended to Coaches Lo Curto and Lewis for their guidance and enthusiasm. Congratulations Team for representing our school!

Social Justice

The Social Justice team has been involved in several campaigns in the past month. In response to the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan, the Social Justice team organized a bake sale and raised 200\$ for ShareLife. Thanks to all parents and students for their contributions to the bake sale.

In addition, they have been involved in preparing submissions for a Social Justice contest sponsored by Engineers Without Borders Canada Youth, where the students worked together to write essays or created videos to answer the question: *What kind of world do you want to live in and what actions will you take to get there?* Students have said they appreciated reflecting about this issue, and we will be discussing how to turn our essays and videos into real actions for our lives in our world.

Our final campaign for the year will be a summertime raffle, which will assist Mr. Lewis's fundraising efforts for his summer educational mission to Kenya. In July, he will be travelling to the Masai region of Kenya with Teachers Helping Teachers Canada, an organization that helps teachers in developing nations with strategies that build retention and participation in the classroom. Thanks to all contributions, prayers, and words of support that have already been offered. Please visit <http://lewischoir.blogspot.com> for updated information or to make an online donation.



Eco Club News

The EcoClub is celebrating some new positive improvements to our school environment and we would like to thank everyone who has shown concern and support for our environment. We truly are making history by establishing new traditions in our school. A first is our PLEDGE to a bottled water-free school. Students support this pledge by replacing their old habit of the bottled water by using a refillable canteen. We would like to thank Andrew Walker, our student trustee in grade 10, for his valiant hard work at convincing the school Trustees to announce that TCDSB schools will be bottled water free by 2012. Another first was our huge fundraising efforts towards WWF. Students, parents and staff took the challenge to climb the CN Tower

on April 16th at 6:00 a.m. We proudly raised \$2630. Liam Bishop spearheaded the cause by encouraging students to climb and raise awareness. Liam placed 13th out of 2155 climbers with a time of 12:39. He truly did lead us to the top! Special mention to Andrew Barbosa and Mr. White for their spirit and support. Hooray to all our climbers: Ian Cheong, Andrew Clifford, Aaron Groh, Matthew Lam, Ms. Licht, Benedict Licht, Martin Licht, Ms. Maclean, Alee Mannella, Francesco Mannella, Gerard Mannella, Stefan Vercillo, Mr. Vercillo, Lucas Wieckowski, Wanda Thorne, Teri Dunn, Katheryn Trainor, Fiorella LoCurto and Joseph LoCurto. A BIG "Thank-you" to everyone for supporting this cause. WWF's global mission is "to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future

We are using our vermi-composter and have harvested a rich soil that we are using to plant herb gardens in various classrooms. We will harvest the herbs and enjoy the fruits of our labour with a delicious meal (i.e. baked potato with chives, bruschetta with oregano, iced tea with mint, salsa with cilantro, crostini with rosemary, pesto pasta with basil). Special thanks to Ms. Cancelliere for her culinary inspirations. The EcoClub meets Wednesday at 3:30 in room 411. We work towards reducing our waste and promoting waste-free lunches, reducing our energy and promoting energy awareness, improving our physical environment through greening efforts and educating ourselves about being in harmony with nature. We welcome you!
Mme LoCurto

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Chairs:**

Ms. Jennifer
Walker

Mr. David
Gatchalian

~ Student News ~

A Typical Day in the Life of a Choir Boy

Every day is very busy for me at St. Michael's Choir School in Toronto. There are always many rehearsals for concerts and Sundays. Of all the school days, Wednesday is the busiest day for me.

My Wednesday morning begins at 5:30AM. After washing, dressing, eating breakfast, and packing my bag, my mom drives me to the Victoria Park subway station, where I get on a westbound train at 6:40AM. The choir school is located downtown, between Shuter and Dundas streets, and although most of the students live in Toronto's west end, I and a few others live in the east end. The train ride lasts 20 minutes and I exit at the Dundas station. Upon arrival at school, I practice the organ for 30 minutes, and then I go outside to play soccer.

When the supervisor blows the whistle at 8:30, I go to my classroom to start my day of studies. This week, since the focus is on EQAO, the class does practice questions until recess at 10:15. At recess, I relax before going to my piano lesson at 10:30. After piano, I go to choral. At choral, we practice our Sunday and tour music. Then I have lunch at 12 noon. After lunch, since I am in French Immersion, I have the French half of my class. During French, I do some grammar work and one group presents their "Journal de Bord d'un Astronaute" project. After the 2:30 recess, I have my gifted class. During my gifted class, I prepare for the grade 6 Pythagoras math contest.

On my way home at 3:30, I stop at a Subway restaurant and "eat fresh." My day is not done yet, because I have a martial arts class! Finally, around 8:30, I arrive home. I relax by watching "Austin Powers" on my computer. Afterward, I prepare for bed and it's lights out !

By: Ollie Gaus