



# SMCS Newsletter

*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*

*St. Michael's Choir School  
67 Bond Street  
Toronto, On M5B 1X2  
Telephone: (416) 393-5518  
Fax: (416) 393-5880  
[barry.white@tcdsb.org](mailto:barry.white@tcdsb.org)*

## Principal's Greeting



As you can see in this newsletter, St Michael's Choir School has been a busy place during the last month. It was wonderful to gather as a community and break bread at the CSAC Multi-cultural pot-luck dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup>. November is a time to remember those who have gone before us, the communion of saints, loved ones and those who served to protect us. We are very proud of the way our Grade 12 class continued the tradition of leading the Remembrance Day ceremony in the Cathedral.

This month was a time of great success for our volleyball program with our Senior high school team going to the provincial OFSAA tournament in Stratford and our elementary intermediate team bringing home the Regional Champion plaque - which had been won by the senior team three years prior!

It was an honour to be present at the gala dinner hosted by the Fraser Institute at which our school was recognized for sustained excellence in Language Arts. Parent teacher interviews on the 17<sup>th</sup> were fruitful occasions for teachers and parents to connect as partners to discuss individual student achievement. At the end of the month, as part of our on-going school focus on student well-being, students participated in a survey about school connectedness. We'll be reporting to the community after we've had a chance to process the results.

As Advent began, our conductors and choristers smoothly handled the transition to the new English translation of the Roman Missal. All energy is now focused on gearing up for Massey Hall weekend. We look forward to seeing you at this event and at the various up-coming Christmas celebrations in the Cathedral. On behalf of the staff here at the Choir School, I wish all of you blessings during the Christmas season, the peace of Christ, the company of loved ones, rest and renewal as we head into 2012!

If you have an item or photo that you think might be of interest to the school community, please feel free to send it along ([barry.white@tcdsb.org](mailto:barry.white@tcdsb.org)) for consideration to be included in the newsletter



FRASER INSTITUTE - November 24th, 2011

## Choral News

### Executive Director's Message



The Choir School is such a beehive of activity at any time during the year, but this month proved to be especially hectic. Congratulations to the boys in grade 12 who worked together to produce a most moving Remembrance Day service in the Cathedral. For those of us in attendance, it served as another reminder of the legacy of leadership we are privileged to enjoy. The boys in grades three to six displayed their instrumental prowess at grade level recitals this month. How thrilling it is to witness the solo stage performances of these young men.

The main activity for our choirs this month was preparing the music of the new Roman Missal as well as music for Advent and Christmas. The new mass settings for the Cathedral represent a new direction for us but it supplements the beautiful polyphonic and chant settings we are known for by so many.

Of course, preparations for Massey Hall have also take center stage this month. All of the choirs are diligently working on their repertoire for the Saturday and Sunday performances. Our [www.christmasconcert.ca](http://www.christmasconcert.ca) website has provided friends and family a much needed boost to our ticket sales. Despite a few inaugural hiccups, the committee is deservedly pleased with the results so far. This year's ticket sales are already (as of this writing) substantially ahead of previous years' records. Thank you to parents and friends who have already purchased tickets this way.

I had the wonderful opportunity to travel this month planning the spring tours for the boys. At every stop, people were excited about the boys from the Choir School coming back again. Their memories of the *polite young men from Toronto* with such talent, remains strong. What a joy to plan tours with such receptive hosts. You can be assured that the boys will have wonderful experiences on the road next spring.

December will be a month jammed with public appearances. Grades 3 and 4 boys perform live on 96.3FM Radio, streamed online as well, Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:20pm. The next day Saturday, our Benefit choir appears in Yorkdale Shopping Mall at the Holt Renfrew store (1:00pm & 2:15pm). In the evening, our youngest boys sing at the Herbie Fund Gala Dinner (for Sick Kids Hospital). On Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 30 of the TB singers appear live on Breakfast Television! This is the highest rated morning show in the GTA. OMNI-TV is preparing a promotional spot for us prior to Massey Hall. Of course, many of you have already seen the CTV Tours of Toronto which can be viewed online. The Senior Choir marches to the Scotia Bank Plaza on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> for a noon hour recital. During the last week of school, the Benefit choir hits the road with performances at Billy Bishop Airport (for weary travellers) as well as Sunnybrook, Sick Children's and St. Michael's Hospital. You might want to tune in to CHFI-FM. There you will hear jingles recorded by a few of our Senior Choir sopranos! As you can see, it is a busy month for our choir boys.

I wish all of our Choir School families peace and comfort in this Advent season. A blessed Christmas to all!

W. Edward McCall, **SMCS '79**



**Junior Choir News**



The Grade 5 class participated in a beautiful service which served as the opening ceremony for the Friends of the Crèche Convention held in Toronto November 10-12. The Service at St. James Cathedral included Coptic Egyptian singing, a First Nations smudging ceremony, and a living nativity scene, peaceful baby included! The boys' singing was received very well and they were given VIP treatment with a special green room with a full spread of cheeses, fruits, and treats!

Ms. C. Bagan  
Junior Choral  
Conductor



**Senior Choir News**



On November 8th and 10th, I was one of a few lucky students that got the chance to participate in an African drumming workshop at Alpha Roots Drumming. I have never gotten a chance to play the wide variety of African drums that he had, such as the Djembe (the highest pitched drum) and the Douloumba (the lowest pitched drum). My personal favourite was most definitely the Douloumba. This workshop was organized to prepare us for a special surprise during the Massey Hall concerts and I can't wait to hear the reaction of the crowd to this glorious ensemble that was put together by Ms. Dunn. This ensemble has been hard at work over the past few weeks and I am confident that we will blow the top off of Massey Hall!

**By: K. J. Mitchell**

Ms. T. Dunn  
Elementary and Senior  
Choral Conductor



## CHAPLAINCY AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

### STREET PATROL



*Students in our grade 10 religion class participated in two street patrols this month. Street patrols provide the opportunity to get out into the community and offer food and fellowship to members of our community who are disadvantaged. The boys deserve congratulations for the hard work that they have put into coordinating this act of charity. From packing lunches to donating food and from networking with parents to donating funds, the boys demonstrated the strong service leadership skills that help define a "man for others".*



*Thank you to Dean and the Office of Catholic Youth for their support of this initiative. Also, a huge thank you goes out to Ms. Povolo for all her help in getting the groceries that we needed to make the lunches. We couldn't have done it without you!*

By Mr. N. Kovacs

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

Congratulations to the grade 12 class for putting together this year's Remembrance Day service. These young men provided a fitting and moving tribute to the sacrifices made by Canadian Armed Forces Veterans. We recognize and sincerely appreciate all of the hard work that went into the service. From early morning rehearsals and planning sessions to dress rehearsals and meetings, the boys demonstrated commitment and hard work. Way to go gentlemen! Special mention goes out to Joseph Crimi and Aidan Gunda for all their effort in coordinating the service, to Andrew Fekete for his leadership as a conductor and his hard work on the program, to Adrian Autencio for his leadership as a conductor and for the original composition, to Enrico Valenzuela for the painting that was featured on the program cover and to Tim Paddon, Josh Pellerin and Filiipe Santos for the poem which was read during the service. What a team!



**Nicholas W. Kovacs**  
Chaplaincy and Student Leadership



## CSAC NEWS

What a whirlwind of a November we just had ! Now with Advent upon us and Christmas around the corner, things really start to get a little harried. But not to dismiss November so quickly, let's review.

The month started off with a "Blast from the Past", Multicultural Night was a smashing success. A very special thank you goes out to the organizing committee, led by Anabelle di Santo who helped to host a very enjoyable evening for the entire community. Well over 300 parents, staff, teachers and students spent the evening partaking of a veritable cornucopia of food and desserts from all of the cultures that are represented here at the Choir School. Then the following Monday, CSAC sponsored a very important seminar on "Internet Safety". All students in the school attended three separate age-appropriate sessions and parents also had the opportunity to attend the evening session all given by an IT security specialist. The information presented and was very useful, informative and filled with many tips that can put into use right away. The most important impression, like all other things with our children, managing technology is a joint-responsibility that we need to pay close attention to. If any parents would like a copy of the handout and notes from the session, just send an e-mail to [david.gatchalian@rogers.com](mailto:david.gatchalian@rogers.com) and they will be sent to you.

The rest of November is a blur with Report Cards, Teacher interviews, Elementary Grade Recitals, Massey Hall after-school rehearsals and finally the start of Advent which was kicked off by the Grade 4/5 Choir at the Sunday 5pm mass where they did a superb job...so much so, I am looking forward to Christmas morning mass !



Finally, below you will find a picture below of your 2011-12 CSAC Council.

Back Row: David Gatchalian - Co-Chair

Thomas Rawlinson - Treasurer

Front Row: Jennifer Walker - Co-Chair

Mande Puskas - Secretary

### MULTICULTURAL NIGHT - NOVEMBER 4, 2011 - Anabelle Di Santo



On Friday November 4th, SMCS brought back the Annual Multicultural Night Potluck Dinner. All told, almost 100 families participated with total attendance well over 300 hungry people.

We all enjoyed an amazing social event full of laughs, shared stories over tasty yummy authentic foods and delicious desserts prepared and delivered by parents. The school gym was decorated with flags from numerous countries and some parents even dressed up in their country's native costumes and soccer jerseys. There were also fabulous raffle prizes including Food Baskets, Swiss Chalet Dinner Gift Cards and the first two tickets to the upcoming Dinner Dance!

It was a great success and we look forward to this becoming an annual fall classic.

Many thanks to everyone that participated in helping to plan the event, organizing parents and food donations, setting up tables and chairs and cleaning up afterwards. All of your efforts helped to make this event a reality.



## STUDENT VOICE



**PATRICK PARRO**  
PRESIDENT STUDENT COUNCIL 2011-2012

The days until Massey Hall are in their single digits; it must be that time of year again! The Student Council, still counting down the days 'til summer, has been stirring up some new events and initiatives in and around the school.

A few of our high school boys performed at "Java Jam" at St. Joseph's College earlier this month! The show was a big success and we are glad to continue the partnership with our sister school this year and hope to sustain it for years to come. Job well done to all the performers, as I'm sure, it'd be a whole different show if it weren't for you!

The Grade 9 class hosted a pizza lunch for the Grade 4 class to build friendships and to get to know each other better. Thanks to Mrs. Povolito, Mr. Berringer, and Mrs. Cram for helping to organize and coordinate the cross-grade interaction for the boys!

We've just kicked off our annual Christmas Toy Drive to benefit the needy families and children of the St. Vincent de Paul society in our parish community. The Toy Drive runs from **Monday, November 28, 2011 to Thursday, December 8, 2011!** The Student Council will collect donations of new toys from each classroom at the end of every day. Please wrap the gift and place a tag indicating the gender and age appropriateness for each gift.



And finally, we've just launched our Student Survey to students in Grades 7 to 12 in order to receive feedback and insight regarding various issues to support changes in our school community. We look forward to implementing a few changes in the future with the help of the results from our survey.

On behalf of the Student Council and student body, we hope to see you at our Massey Hall Christmas Concert on December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>!

### INTERNET SAFETY

As a follow up to the presentation on **INTERNET SAFETY** please remind your son that when they are on-line, their comments are permanent and can be seen by the whole world.



## SCHOOL CLUBS

### SOCIAL JUSTICE - OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER UPDATE

This past Halloween, the St. Michael's Choir School's Social Justice Team carried out its second Halloween for Hunger led by grade 8 students Jordan Nigro and Gerard Mannella. Several volunteers from the Social Justice Team relinquished their chance to collect candy in order to support the Weston Food Bank. As many of you know, food banks collect canned goods and other non-perishable items for the general needy population circulating in their community. They collected a whopping 450 cans for their effort.

Another event that took place was the Jelly Bean Contest organized by the Disaster Relief Group. This event was established to aid ShareLife in financing relief efforts for the people of Africa who are suffering from an ongoing drought. The group raised a befitting amount of \$100 for the relief effort.

Future events that are still being organized are the Vow of Silence on December 2 and the annual Shoebox Drive from December 8-21. The Vow of Silence is a 24h event when the grade 7 and 8 students will refrain from any verbal communication to represent global populations that don't have "a voice". The Shoebox Drive helps the organization Covenant House (which helps homeless youth) by giving them items they need such as pencils, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and notebooks.

We hope that these events will play a role to promote the global aspiration to bring aid people in atrocious situations and help them emerge from their injustices.

Amit Nehru and Aloysius Wong  
Grade 7



### eCSLIT - Elementary Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team



On Tuesday Nov. 8 the members of eCSLIT had a regular day until 3:00pm. We all took the subway up to the Sheppard station with the guidance of Ian Cheung in the lead, and got there just in time for the start of the meeting. All together we sat down as a group and started testing our catapult that we had diligently worked on, the day before. When the meeting began we sat quietly down so that Mike Consul the head of eCSLIT could introduce our first speaker Richard Rainford from *Money Smarts and*

*Kids* speaker. He spoke to us about how to save our money and taught us a bunch of financial slogans such as "Don't put all your eggs in one basket", meaning that if one of our investments would go down then hopefully the other would go up and balance the equation out. Amit Nehru impressed all the adults and the presenter by his overall knowledge of finance. Next came one of our favourite part of the evening being our pizza dinner. Once that was over, we had the competition to see who could launch a ping pong ball the farthest by using the catapults that were created. St. Paschal Baylon won the competition and we came in third amongst 15 other elementary school participating eCSLIT. The evening ended with our next competition being that we need to prepare a Christmas hamper for a needy family being given to us by St. Vincent de Paul. The evening was enjoyable and a great success for all of us.

Declan Campbell  
Gr 8

## ATHLETICS

### The Athletics Corner



The Intermediate Volleyball Team has been achieving great success with its past two victories. They placed first overall in the Divisional Tournament and first overall in the South Regional Tournament. They went on to represent the South Region in the TCSAA City Championship on Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at Humber College. They received a plaque at the South Region Tournament that was also received three years ago by our Senior Volleyball OFSAA Team. It will remain at the school in our trophy cabinet for everyone to see for the year.

**Go Spartans Go!**

By : Mr. G. Tarascio



### Physical Education



November was a busy month for our grade 9 and 10 physical education classes. Our grade 9s participated in a week-long CPR course here at the school. The boys gained valuable exposure to the first aid skills necessary for dealing with a range of emergency situations including cardiac arrest, loss of consciousness and choking. Throughout the entire course, the boys demonstrated enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

The Grade 10 students had an opportunity to try wheelchair basketball. Using chairs rented from the Red Cross, the boys learned about the sport and the skills that are necessary in order to play. While it took the boys a bit of time to get used to the way that the chairs worked, it wasn't long before they were moving quickly up the court while passing, dribbling and scoring. The students also learned a valuable lesson about empathy and the importance of respecting people of all abilities.

By Mr. N. Kovacs



## Our Senior Volleyball Team at OFSAA, November 24<sup>th</sup> to Nov 26<sup>th</sup>.



What a weekend for our Senior Volleyball team in Stratford at the OFSAA volleyball tournament!

We arrived on Wednesday and checked into our hotel and an hour later we made our way to the Stratford Agriplex for the opening night OFSAA banquet. The Agriplex is a multi-purpose athletics and community centre that would put many others to shame. All twenty teams from around the province assembled by 7:00 pm and after a few welcoming words the meal began to the great delight of all. Afterwards the teams were all introduced and there were a few more words of welcome and thanks to the organizers. By 9:30 pm most of the teams were headed back to the hotel.

Thursday morning saw the opening matches begin at 9:00 am. There were four pools of teams, each pool with five teams. The Choir School team was in Pool A in position A4. In our first game we dropped the first set but came storming back to take the second one. The third and deciding set was close but we came up short 15-12.

As luck would have it we came up against the eventual tournament champion in game two and lost 2-0. Our third game was much more successful as we beat the only other Toronto school, C.W. Jeffrey, 2-0. Our fourth game was a spirited game against a London school, Westminster S.S., but they prevailed 2-0 against us.

The results of all this meant that we were in the Consolation round. We played the first game of that round on Friday afternoon and beat a school from North Hastings, thus assuring our advancement to Saturday morning. On Saturday we came up against a school from Temiskaming and we defeated them to move to the Consolation final. Who should we meet in that game but Westminster from London again! Our team dropped the first set but we took the second set. We had the momentum going into the third set but we just couldn't finish it and Westminster eked out that win. In the next set our team was up by seven points but could not hold it and lost in a tight finish.

The team finished the tournament as finalists in the consolation round which is a great achievement for them and our school. Everyone on the team worked hard and as they walked out the vision of next year was on everyone's mind.

Congratulations to all the boys on the team for a very successful season. When you make it to OFSAA you are one of the best teams in the province.

By Mr. R. Berringer



## ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS



Ms. Abou Merhi - Gr. 5 class - Queen's Park



Ms. Cram - Gr. 4 class - Medieval Times -Nov. 24th



Mr. Collins - Gr. 3 class - Crawford Lake Nov 24th

### **SMCS 2011-2012 LUNCH PROGRAM** - Anabelle DiSanto & Pina Povolo



In its third year, the lunch program continues to be a great success, with over 160 students and staff registered. Lunch consists of a warm meal, salad, fresh veggies, and a juice and is served almost every Friday by a group of very dedicated parent volunteers.

This year the program introduced both a lasagna lunch and fresh veggies in addition to Swiss Chalet, and Pizza Nova. Both are a big hit! Signing up for the Winter Lunch Program is starting in January, please look for the new forms going home in mid-December.

We would like to thank all of our parent volunteers, without your support this program would not be able to run! A special thank you for assisting us behind the scenes Ms. Lucy , Ms. Stroud, Cellino, and Robert . We appreciate all the support you have given us throughout the year.

**SMCS Annual Dinner Dance: Save The Date!**

The SMCS Annual Dinner Dance is an exciting evening whereby the parents, alumni, and supporters of the Choir School gather together to raise funds to subsidize the cost of sending our boys on tour. This year Mr. McCall will be unveiling the tour for the Spring of 2013.

Come join us for a wonderful time of Dinner, Dancing and merriment at the Montecassino Hotel on Friday February 10, 2012. This evening will also feature a Silent Auction, Open Bar, Door Prizes and Draws along with a fabulous live Band.

Tickets will be on sale starting December 13th. The cost for the evening is \$85 per person.

We are also looking for donations of items for our Silent Auction. If you, or someone you know can donate prizes that can be used for our Silent Auction please contact us at [info@dinnerdance.ca](mailto:info@dinnerdance.ca).

Our next SMCS Dinner Dance Committee meeting on Wednesday December 14th, at 5:30pm in the Auditorium. If you would like to join the committee but are unable to attend the meeting, please send an email to [info@dinnerdance.ca](mailto:info@dinnerdance.ca), with your contact information.

We look forward to hearing from you!

David Gatchalian & Pina Povalo  
SMCS Dinner Dance Committee

**Special Up-Coming Choir School Events**

<b>December 9th</b>	<b>Dress Rehearsal 12:30 to 5:30 P.M. At Massey Hall</b>
<b>December 10th</b>	<b>7:30 P.M. Christmas Concert at Massey Hall</b>
<b>December 11th</b>	<b>3:00 P.M. Christmas Concert at Massey Hall</b>
<b>December 12th</b>	<b>P.A. Day - Elementary and Secondary School</b>
<b>December 21st</b>	<b>Grade 3 class to Black Creek Pioneer Village</b>
<b>December 23rd</b>	<b>Christmas Vacation beginning at 3:30 p.m.</b>
	<b>Civvies Day</b>
<b>January 9th</b>	<b>Back to School</b>
<b>January 11th</b>	<b>CSAC Meeting - 7:00</b>

**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

**SUPERINTENDENT:**  
**Mr. M. McMorrow**  
(416) 222-8282 Ex. 5371

**TRUSTEE 2011-2012****WARDS**

1. PETER JAKOVIC
2. ANN ANDRACHUK - CHAIR
3. SAL PICCININNI - VICE-CHAR
4. PATRIZIA BOTTONI
5. MARIA RIZZO
6. FRANK D'AMICO
7. JOHN DEL GRANDE

8. TOBIAS ENVERGA
9. **JO-ANN DAVIS**  
(416) 512-3409
10. BARBARA POPLAWSKI
11. ANGELA KENNEDY
12. NANCY CRAWFORD

STUDENT TRUSTEE -SABRINA RENNA