



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.

With all the Spring activities to report on, the June Newsletter appears to have become a mainstay of our communication process.

The upcoming G20 summit has required us to make unexpected major changes to our graduation ceremonies. These changes have already been shared with all community members and are included here for future reference:

Closing Ceremonies PART I & II have been moved from Friday June 25th to Tuesday June 29th. **Closing Ceremonies Part I** will now take place at the Engineering Building at Ryerson University on Church Street at 1:00 p.m. **Part II** will be in the Cathedral, beginning at 7:30 p.m. **The Gr. 12 Graduation Dinner** has been moved from Saturday June 26th, to Monday June 28th. The time and venue of the event have not changed. **The Gr. 8 Graduation Mass** will be combined with that of the Gr. 12 Graduation Mass of Thanksgiving (Part II) on June 29th. **The Gr. 8 Graduation Ceremony and Luncheon** will take place at the Montecassino Event Venue on Monday June 28th, starting at 11:00 a.m.

I would like to offer my apologies to those families of our graduating class who are being affected by the changes resulting from the G20 summit. Incredible as it may seem, there was very little information available three months ago when members of our CSAC started calling our members of Parliament and the local councillors, and no one expected Ryerson University and the University of Toronto to close during the conference.

I would like to thank all parents who either wrote to me about the Extended Program or attended the May 25th information meeting. The data clearly show that our students can successfully cope with the added French programming. The research also shows that students make significant gains in their first language when studying a second language. On a practical basis, there are also numerous reasons for studying French at an in-depth level. From my perspective, the program is highly valuable and will remain. As I meet with my successor, I will clearly outline the present support systems that are in place as well as what should be done to ensure a viable and vibrant Extended French Program for the future.

Our recruitment program has now come to an end. I would like to thank all the staff and parent volunteers who contributed to a very successful reception that followed the Welcome Mass for new students and their families on June 6th. The strong reputation of the school continues to attract a greater number of new applicants which bodes well for the future.

The picture at the top of the page was taken at the June 4th concert. From my perspective, both the Junior and Elementary choirs sounded better than ever. Congratulations to our choristers and their conductors for an outstanding performance.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that there is a lot happening in the next two weeks, and I look forward to your continued support.

All the best,

D. Melino



CSAC Update

By: S. Nielsen, Co-Chair

Here we are, counting down the days to the graduation ceremonies and the end of the school year. Although the Federal Government has thrown a wrench into the end of year plans, we will soldier on resiliently as we always do. Last minute planning and sudden changes are not strangers to the Choir School. How I love

this place: the energy, the passion, the commitment!

The first time I attended a Choir School CSAC meeting, I was amazed at the diverse subject matter discussed. Then, as now, a great deal of the meeting was taken up by Music School matters. Once engaged in the dialogue it was almost impossible to stay home on CSAC meeting nights. I know that sentiment is shared by others: over the past few years, the number of CSAC representatives has grown tremendously. This year there is one CSAC rep for every 10 students at the school. How's that for parent involvement in our children's education process? CSAC elections take place in September – please consider how you can get involved if you haven't had an opportunity before.

This year we, as stakeholders of the Choir School, have had some ups and downs as we await the announcement of our new Music School Director. The Archdiocese does not move quickly, to the detriment of our patience. On the positive side, progress has been made this year as parent representation at the Advisory Board became a reality.

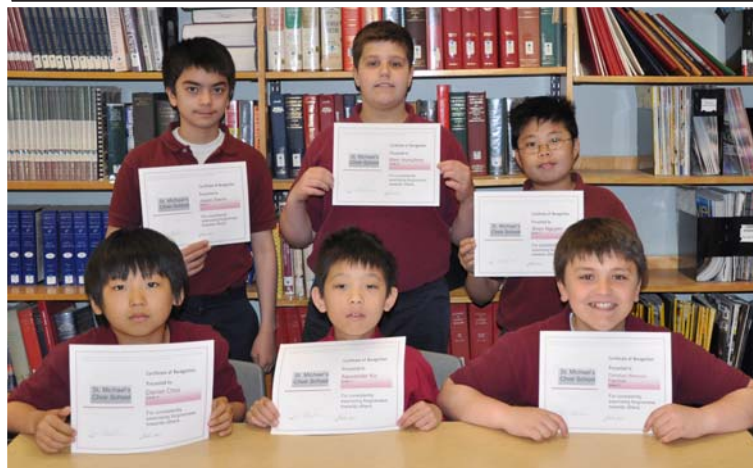
Next year the face of the school will be a bit different with a new Principal and a new Director. I know that the Choir School staff and families will welcome them with open arms and hearts as they settle into their new roles.

On a personal note, as I wind up my final year at St. Mike's, I want to thank the multitude of parent volunteers who actively work behind the scenes on everything from organizing the concerts and tours, to fundraising, and everything in between. Thanks also to the academic, choral and instrumental staff members who engage our sons from their early years and shape them into the fine young men who leave this institution. Thanks to Mr. Melino for sharing his passion for volleyball with our family. We have much to be grateful for.

Have a great summer!



CHARACTER RECOGNITION



The virtue recognized for the month of March was FORGIVENESS. Congratulations to the following certificate recipients: Alexander Ko (3), Daniel Choi (4), Christian Masucci-Facchini (5), Brian Nguyen (6), Jason Sierra (7), Marc Humphrey (8)



The virtue recognized for the month of April was JUSTICE. Congratulations to the following certificate recipients: Joseph Pongonthara (3), Ruven Samaraweera (4), Adam Gauran (5), Christian Bracciale (6), Adrian Velasco (7), Lucas Wiekowski (8)

BUYING BOOKS WAS A LOT OF FUN FOR OUR STUDENTS!

Ms. A. McMillan

On Thursday May 20th, twenty-three of the Choir School's most avid readers from grades three to eight went on a shopping spree to Indigo with Ms McMillan. Each student was given approximately fifty dollars to spend on books he felt needed to be in the library collection. Within half an hour the boys were lined up at the cash counter with their selections. Of course everyone overspent by a few dollars but it all broke even with the twenty percent discount we obtain with the school board corporate account. It was a win-win situation. The boys had fun, the library acquired some hot new books and Ms McMillan received the very best help she could get. The books will be processed and on the shelves ready for circulation in September. Meanwhile the 'shoppers' all get sneak previews in Ms McMillan's office at lunch and after school. A very big thank-you goes from all of us to CSAC for providing library funding.



JAM NIGHT 2010

**Max May and
Ryan Knowles Gr. 12**

Another year almost over, another Jam Night successfully completed. And what a great Jam Night! With acts ranging from Radiohead to Sinatra, Jimi Hendrix to War, and Boys to Men to Puccini, the entire audience had something to cheer for. This audience also happened to be one of the largest in school record, with both our own students and those from other schools showing up to root for acts and have a good time. Each act was amazing, proving that the choirboys can still rock out if given the chance. And it wasn't just the choirboys. Students from all around came to be a part of this momentous occasion, as well as our guides from the spring tour and a legendary performance from Mr. Rodrigues, which got a standing ovation and much praise from his students. What can't be stressed enough, however, is how many genres and styles were covered by the amazing talent we choirboys naturally have. At one point in time any member of the audience could be listening to Louie Armstrong, and then later be listening to Deep Purple, and then perhaps some Leonard Cohen before Beatles. It was an incredible night. It could not have been so without the help of Mr. Rodrigues and Mr. Woodger, who spent many hours getting everything ready for the performers. Thanks must also be extended to the student council, which helped to organize and clean up after the event, and the chaperones, who made sure that we didn't have too much fun. This year's jam Night was a solid concert, worthy of the hallowed auditorium, and the only question we have now is how we'll be able to pull off a better one next year!



LEGISLATIVE PAGE PROGRAM – AN EXCELLENT EXPERIENCE

Joshua Rossetti Gr. 7

The first time I became interested in politics was in 2004, when a *Jean Augustine* campaigner came to our door and it was from then on that I realized I loved politics. When I saw a poster by my classroom for the legislative page program, I was so excited! I learned more about the program from James Profiti and Andrew Walker, both of whom had been pages before. They were unanimous; the page program was the best! When I arrived for the first time at Queen's Park for orientation, I didn't know what to expect. But by the end of the day I had made many friends, and was impressed with the lovely building. My first time in the chamber it seemed so chaotic, but eventually I tuned out the heckling and listened to the fascinating content behind it. Some of my duties were delivering bills, getting glasses of water for the MPPs and doing anything we were asked to do by the MPPs. My favourite part would have to be the hilarious comments and being there to experience history in the making. In summary my experience at Queen's Park was an excellent one. I hope to be back one day as an MPP.



Note: For anyone interested in the program, applications are now being accepted for the Fall session. The deadline is June 15th. If you want to apply you have to be in Grade 7 or 8 and have an 80 average or greater. If you would like a package you can get one by calling 416-325-7457 or by emailing page_program@ontla.ola.org. I would encourage anyone that is interested to apply, and even if you are not interested apply. It is loads of fun!

JR. BOYS VOLLEYBALL 2010

Sam Codrington Gr. 9

This year's Junior Volleyball season had lots of promise. We had 5 club players (Club is the volleyball equivalent of AAA hockey), and our 2 non-club players were excellent as well. We had one of the best coaches in Canada, we had great equipment, a great gym, and an incredibly supportive principal: Mr. Melino. We had 7 players on our team in a sport that requires 6 of us on the court, and we were playing against teams that had 10 or 12 players at least. Also, one of our biggest problems was that we had only one Gr. 10, Aidan Gunda, playing against teams that had maybe, one Gr. 9. However, despite those considerable handicaps, our TCDSB league play was superb, with a track record of 6 wins in a row, without losing more than a few sets during the entire circuit. We also entered in several tournaments, with some strong games played there against some tough opponents.

With our strong non-playoff record, we were playing the weakest team in another division. However the date of this first playoff game was what changed everything. We were playing two days after we got back from our energy-intensive tour! This is among other things what brought about our demise. We were more than a little tired, and Adam Groh, one of our best players, was still recovering from shin splints. This all contributed to a miserable 3-2 defeat that ended our season. Although we played a tough opponent, we definitely could have beat the team we faced. Having outlined the highlights of our season, I think that we had a good run. I think I can say honestly that we improved over the season. Finally I have to thank many people for such a great season. First I'd like to thank our coach Mr. Rod Humana who kept us going all through the season. Second Mr. Melino for organizing tournaments, collecting fees, and coaching us when Mr. Humana was not around, thanks for this season and enjoy your retirement. Lastly, I'd like to thank all our parents for enrolling us in this amazing school, and most importantly waking us up at 6 in the morning 3 times a week and driving us to the school. Even though in the end, we didn't go nearly as far as we wanted, and could have gone, I think that this season was a success where it matters.



After hearing some very lively campaign speeches, on Tuesday June 8, 2010, all students in grades 8 to 11 cast their ballots for the **2010/2011 student council**. Congratulations to the following individuals and best wishes for a successful year ahead:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|
| PRESIDENT | - | Joey Cowan |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | - | Alvin Tsou |
| SECRETARY | - | Patrick Parro |
| SOCIAL JUSTICE | - | Andrew Walker |
| TREASURER | - | Aidan Gunda |
| SPORT REP | - | Liam Bishop |
| JR. REP. | - | Jules Coutinho |

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE INSTRUMENTAL DEPARTMENT

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, part of the mandate of St. Michael's Choir School is to prepare our students for continuing service to the musical life of the church in their future parishes. To that end we invite interested students to apply for organ instruction for the 2010-11 academic year. Lessons are weekly, half hour in duration, during school hours in addition to regular piano lessons. There is no additional fee.

The present criteria are successful achievement of a Grade VI piano level and a proven commitment to their instrumental studies. Our facilities only allow for limited practice opportunities, therefore candidates are advised to secure additional time at their parish church. The scheduling of practice times at the school is co-ordinated by the music office. The majority of students practice outside regular school hours. Requests should be made in writing before June 23, 2010 to Mr. Dusatko (Head P.O.S.T. Department).

EcoSchool Update

Mme LoCurto

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that that ever has." Margaret Mead

Our small EcoSchool team has made a huge impact on Teamwork and Leadership, Energy Conservation, Waste Minimization, School Ground Greening, Curriculum and Building Environmental Stewardship throughout the school community. We have established a deeply committed student body that has spearheaded many initiatives. The litterless lunch campaign was the basis of our Waste Minimization. Furthermore, our grade 7 class sustains a vermicomposter for apple cores, banana/orange peels, egg shells and coffee grounds. The "Lights Out" awareness was the basis for our energy Conservation and our Solar Panels are working to heat up our hot water. Our new tree sits proudly to promote the start to our School Ground Greening initiative. These are all areas that the Ontario EcoSchools Team monitors when attributing points towards certification. Our school, with our small EcoTeam, has accumulated 82.25 points in the first year of its existence. We would like to thank the entire community for working with the EcoTeam towards our "SILVER" status of certification. This is an amazing feat for such a small group and in its first year. We look forward to receiving our plaque from the Deputy Mayor of Toronto, Joe Pantalone on Tuesday, June 15th on top of the City Hall Green Roof. We are extremely proud of our EcoTeam and of the efforts of all students. Have an EcoFriendly Summer!

Partners in Education

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

Trustee 2009-2010

WARDS

1. Joseph Martino
2. Ann Andrachuk (Vice Chair)
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 (Chair)
 12. Paul John Crawford (Hon. Treasurer)
- Connor Rollitt,
Student Trustee



A Message from Kathryn Trainor

Administrative Director

These remaining few weeks of school are full of "lasts": the last Sunday with choirs at the Cathedral, the last CSAC meeting, the last piano lessons... But come September we start afresh; acknowledging the past, but more importantly looking forward with hope to the future. And the future is looking very positive for the school: enrolment continues to increase, more exciting programs, workshops and clubs are being created for our students, and the Music division looks forward to a new Director.

And although we will all deeply miss Mr. Melino - who has been a true blessing to this school - he will continue to be a part of this community in perpetuity. Mr. Melino will want us to warmly welcome his successor, and show him the many good and unique things about this school, our students, our staff, our families.

On a business note: with the advent of the HST in Ontario, we will see an increase in our operating costs at the school. We will continue to monitor our expenses closely and look for ways to optimize our resources (money, time, talent). The Finance Council will finalize the budget shortly and provide families with advance notice as to the tuition fees for 2010/2011. Please look for the tuition fee schedule in the mail before the end of June.

Thank you and God bless you over the summer holidays,
Kathryn



TEA ON TITANIC...

"Our Hearts Go On..."
The great ship may have sunk but the First Class Parisien Cafe lived on when the grade 3's invited their mothers on board for High Tea. With the sounds of classical orchestral music and our boys serenading their moms with "On This Day O Beautiful Mother", the mothers enjoyed food and fellowship. It was a great success and an event the boys will always remember in their hearts.



TCDS Swim Invitational 2010

Jacob Brozyna Gr. 6

This year a team of junior swimmers from SMCS attended the Toronto Catholic District Schools Swim Invitational meet for the second time. The meet was hosted by École Sainte-Marguerite-D'Youville at the Etobicoke Olympium on April 24th and 25th. Our team led in the singing of O Canada for the athletes; we received many thanks for this afterwards. The team this year competed in many individual and relay events and achieved a higher standard than last year. Indeed, the team improved greatly from last year. Coach Gillis and all the assistant coaches were very helpful in preparing us for this year's meet.

After successes from our high school SMCS swimmers earlier this spring, we were inspired to achieve similar goals. Most of our relay teams made it to the finals - with several top ten finishes - which gave more swimmers opportunities to excel. We took home three individual medals (two silvers and one bronze). Coach Gillis and all the parents were extremely pleased with how the boys competed. Unfortunately, someone triggered the fire alarm during the finals and we had to stand outside for what seemed an eternity in the cold April drizzle. Nevertheless, we managed to pull ourselves together to finish well in the finals. Everyone supported each other when something went wrong and showed excellent sportsmanship to the other athletes during the competition.

Our school even won a special award for highest standard for a team of under 30 swimmers (25 to be exact). Even though our team was 75% smaller than most other school teams, it achieved beyond peoples' expectations. All of the swimmers would like to thank coach Gillis and Mr. Woodger for generously volunteering their time during the swim training season, as well as other parent volunteers who helped at the meet, with coaching, and with timing.

The SMCS Open, 2010

Damien Macedo Gr. 11

The SMCS tennis program has just come to a close, ending its second successful year. This year the program brought together players from grade eight to grade twelve, hoping to improve their skills and win the intramural tennis tournament, which ran through the month of May. It took a great amount of work to organise, but yielded some excellent matches and a new champion to defend his title next year: congratulations to **Joseph Sebastian**, grade 8, who entered the tournament as the 15th seed, and emerged victorious, claiming the \$90.00 1st prize, as well as the *Singles Champion* trophy. I must say that the quality of matches and the sportsmanship with which they were played made me proud to have been a part of it all.

Special thanks must be extended to Mr. Berringer, M. Milani, and Mr. Woodger for taking time out of their busy schedules to supervise practises and matches: the program would not have been possible without you. Thank you also to James Garcia, our head ball-boy, and Jules Coutinho, Joey Jang, Robert Painco, and David Simon, our secondary ball-boys. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Melino, whose blind faith and open-mindedness allowed the tennis program to start up and, hopefully, continue for many more years. Mr. Melino: somewhere, hidden under all the volleyballs and volleyball equipment and volleyball uniforms and volleyball trophies are a few, professional-grade tennis racquets and some lightly used tennis balls, and it is because of you. Along with the rest of us, I wish you well in retirement. As for everyone else, well done, and I'll see you on the courts in September.



Congratulations to our 2010 Track & Field Team for a very successful season!

