



# Choir School 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 center 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.



Ms. Caron Daley directing the Elementary Choir for the **First Friday Mass** at the Catholic Teacher Centre, on Friday, October 5th.



Hello everyone.

On behalf of our staff, I would like to welcome all of our Choir School parents to the 2007 - 2008 school year, and I wish everyone much success and happiness in the coming year.

Enclosed is a letter from Fr. Michael Busch, the Rector of St. Michael's Cathedral, an update of our School Calendar and a **TOUR** information package (Gr. 6-12) - please note the Christmas Concert dates. In addition to the above, please note the following dates: **October 5, March 7, and May 2.** These dates have been designated as additional reporting days by our secondary school teachers. All students in grades 9-12 should be bringing home a progress report from every one of their teachers. We ask that you sign each report and give it back to your son. The signed reports will be reviewed by your son's subject teachers. Ministry report cards for the secondary panel will be mailed out on the following dates: November 12, 2007, February 8, 2008, April 14, 2008 and June 27, 2008. As per instructions, please endeavour to return the last page of the information package to Mrs. Grise by Monday, October 22, 2007.

Best wishes and a warm welcome to those who are new on staff; Ms. Hanh To is returning as a student supervisor, and Mr. Gerard Lewis is the newest member of our elementary staff and will be teaching Math, Science, Religion and Language Arts to the intermediate grades. Mr. Serge Ribot is in for Mr. Luc Roussele and will be teaching the Extended French program to the grades 5 & 6 classes. There are also personnel changes in the music department with a new vocal coach, Ms. Wanda Thorne. Mr. Ted Moroney and Mr. Chris Ku, an alumnus of the class of 2003, will share choral responsibilities with Dr. Cichocki.

Also enclosed with this newsletter are the Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics as well as the Grade 9 EQAO results for the 2006/07 academic year. You will note that we have been making steady progress in all areas of the elementary curriculum. Of particular note are the Grade nine results which are once again at 100%. Congratulations to all participating students and their teachers for such great achievements.

Despite the positive news, our year started on a sad note. On August 24<sup>th</sup> friends, colleagues and students bid a final good-bye to Ms. Giuliana Donato, who passed away from pancreatic cancer. Ms Donato's passion for life and her desire for a better world was a source of inspiration to her students, friends and colleagues. She will be remembered with fondness and be greatly missed. May she rest in peace.

Thank you for your continued spirit and support. All the best and God Bless.

Domnic Melino  
Principal





**A Message from Phil Horgan,  
CSAC Chair**

A parent primer, or St. Michael's Choir School 101.

Just as your son may be embarking upon a new school experience, new parents to the choir school community need some introduction to the school's demands.

Several weeks have gone by, so I expect that the drop off and pick up arrangements have been sorted out. The weekend commitments have begun for parents of

grade 5 and older students.

On the academic front, the recent Curriculum Night provided an opportunity to meet with your son's teachers. Many parents will probably have noted or been pleased with the school's EQAO and Fraser Institute rankings.

The daily regime of homework, instrument practice, and extra curricular sports needs to be balanced with family demands, household obligations, and in some cases part-time jobs.

For the most part, these expectations were understood prior to sending your son to the school. However, I believe that this particular year has been a little different in the various demands for financial or other assistance from parents of the school.

We hosted, or more accurately, several families hosted a choir from Germany in September. This has been the third visiting choir this past year, which has been a little extraordinary. The hospitality offered to the visiting choirs this past year has been greatly appreciated, and perhaps will pay forward when it is time for our sons to be billeted when they go on foreign tours. Thanks to Ulla Knowles and others for their kind efforts.

We all know that the school charges tuition fees for the choral and music programs. Most parents recognized that if their son displayed some musical aptitude, the choir school was a good opportunity to expand on those talents. There are charges for uniform demands. Many parents took advantage of the September used clothing sale, to save significant dollars in acquiring shirts, blazers and other accessories. Many thanks to Ed Coutinho, Susan Nielsen, and the other volunteers for helping out.

However, this year has been a little unusual in the demands that have been made for further assistance

The CSAC's primary fundraiser, the magazine drive, is under way, and through the efforts of acquiring or renewing last year's subscriptions to periodicals below cost, the CSAC can fund the various receptions, school supports, and other acquisitions for the boys. Thanks to Michel Carroll and his crew for their committed efforts.

There is a student food drive, which probably results in many cans being acquired from your kitchen pantry, to assist the less fortunate. My sons have needed cheques for volleyball coaching help, the student U.N. conference, and money for civvies days.

The Alumni Gala concert has added a new expenditure for many parents this year, rather than the fall concert of recent years. I think that it is understood that this special performance, organized by committed alumni, will pay dividends in the future for the school's endowment fund, so as to allow those with lesser means to attend the school.

And of course, the Christmas concert season is not far away, accompanied by further demands for further ticket and CD sales, with the launch of the school's first recording in several years.

It has all been a little overwhelming, even to older parents such as myself. It would be much easier if a guardian angel could be found to provide the seven figure sums that the school needs to operate. While we are waiting for that providential assist, the current demands remain. Hopefully, you will come to recognize the value of the school for your son's development, and the good works the school provides to the cathedral community and to the world, some of which will be on display at Roy Thomson Hall later this month.

I am pleased to advise that several new CSAC reps have stepped forward, and that I will co-chair this year's CSAC with Susan Nielsen. A report on the CSAC activities will be provided in a future newsletter.



The character recognition for the month of September was COURAGE. Congratulations to the following recipients: Tiago Rocha (Gr. 3), Ronan Roque (Gr. 4), Martin Gomes (Gr. 5), Anders Marshall (Gr. 6), Daniel Cowan (Gr. 7), and Oliver De Vega (Gr. 8)



Congratulations to Ryan Fitzgerald (Gr. 6) for selling lots of magazine subscriptions and winning the draw for the five pound chocolate bar. Way to go Ryan. Hard work and a bit of luck does pay!

**ALLERGIES ALERT**

Please be aware that there are several children in our school, with severe life threatening food allergies to peanuts and nuts (anaphylaxis). This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you may choose to send foods with your child to school that are free from (the allergen e.g. peanuts or nut products).

If your child is allergic to peanuts or peanut products, please tell us. With your help, we will do our best to prevent mishaps and to make sure that all our students are safe, healthy, and able to concentrate on learning.

Please call the school if you require additional information about our policies and practices.



**A Message From Our Director:**  
Fr. J.M. Missio

As this newsletter goes to press, the alumni gala concert "The Gift of Music" is just around the corner. An excellent article in the Toronto Sun really captured the spirit of what this is about, a remarkable list of household Canadian names, with one major thing in common - this school!

In celebrating the legacy of the Choir School, we are not living in the past, but bringing awareness of the school to the present and ensuring a bright future. Congratulations to the alumni organizers and thanks for the tremendous effort given to make this concert a success. Keep spreading the news: tickets are still available.

After the Gala, it will be Massey Hall, Massey Hall, and Massey Hall. It will be splendid to sing with guests from the Toronto Philharmonia accompanying us. In turn, our Senior Choir will join the T.O. Phil concert in North York the day after our MH concerts. Did you know that tickets are now on sale? Here's a tip: buy in person and save quite a bit. Check the Massey Hall calendar. On days when there is a show at Massey, the box office is open and you can get your tickets before you pick up your boy from school. Sponsorship packages will be mailed soon, but we can provide them now if you have a lead on a generous sponsor. Ask you local merchants - who wouldn't want to sponsor a choirboy Christmas concert?

With the help of our Tour Committee, an agent has been selected whom we are confident will make this trip a success. Mention Prague to anyone and they will tell you it is one of (if not *the*) most beautiful cities in Europe. We have an opportunity to combine the musically exciting experience of singing for and with other renowned men and boys choirs with sightseeing in a stunning cultural gem of a city.

With all this going on, it feels busier than ever at the school. We're busy creating the next generation of Matt Dusks, Kevin Hearn, Michael Burgesses etcetera from our boys - and that's a pretty exciting thing to be doing.



On October 2, 2007, two well known alumni, Kevin Hearn and Michael Burgess visited our school and spent some time chatting with some of our boys, Pictured from left to right are: Michael Carroll, Thomas Hudson, Walter Mahabir, Wilfred De Vega, Mark Tsou, Mr. Hearn, Paolo Bordignon, Marco La Grotta, Aidan Curran, Matthew Snowdon and Dugald Campbell.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

These are our Choral engagements until December. All are *required* events for choirs indicated. Mark days requiring dress uniform.

**Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.** "A Gift of Music" gala concert. **Senior and Junior Choirs (all gr. 5 to 12).** Roy Thomson Hall. Note late start at school - 11 a.m. Details of pickup from Thomson Hall after concert to follow. **Dress Uniform.** [www.smcsalumni.com](http://www.smcsalumni.com)

**Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:10 p.m.** All Saints Mass in Cathedral. **Senior Saturday Choir in Dress Uniform.** (Mass for grades 3 to 6 at 9:15 a.m., day uniform.) Parents are welcome to either liturgy.

**Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12:10 p.m.** All Souls Mass in Cathedral. **Senior Sunday Choir in Dress Uniform.** (Mass for grades 3 to 6 at 9:15 a.m., day uniform.) Parents are welcome to either liturgy.

**Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.** Remembrance Day Service in Cathedral. **Gr. 12 Choir. Gr. 12 in Dress Uniform.** All are welcome.

**Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:45 p.m.** Hummingbird Centre corporate Christmas party. **Tenor/Basses from Sunday Choir** (and others). Option to attend complimentary performance of "White Christmas" at 2:30 p.m. **Dress Uniform.** Invitation only.

**Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.** Run-out Concert. **St. Joseph's Church, Hamilton. Full Senior Choir (all gr. 7 to 12).** Buses will take students directly from school, and return to school after the concert. **Dress Uniform.**

**Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.** Run-out Concert. **Knox Church, Stratford. Full Senior Choir (all gr. 7 to 12).** Buses will take students directly from school, and return to school after the concert. **Dress Uniform.** [www.stratfordsummermusic.ca](http://www.stratfordsummermusic.ca)

**Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.** **Junior Choir Concert.** Details TBA.

**Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m. AND Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m.** **Massey Hall Christmas Concert. ALL STUDENTS. Dress Uniform.** Early dismissal on Friday. NOTE AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE ON SATURDAY. Tickets now on sale: [www.masseyhall.com](http://www.masseyhall.com)

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m.** Toronto Philharmonia Concert. **Toronto Centre for the Arts (North York). Full Senior Choir (all gr. 7 to 12).** **Dress Uniform.** [www.torontophil.on.ca](http://www.torontophil.on.ca)

**Thursday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.** Benefit Concert for York Centre. **Cathedral of Transfiguration, Markham. Junior Choir.** Michael Burgess and others. **Dress Uniform.**

**Monday, December 24.** Christmas Eve in cathedral. **Senior Sunday Choir** to sing at 8 p.m.; **Senior Saturday Choir** to sing at 12 Midnight. **Dress Uniform.**

**Tuesday, December 25.** Christmas Day in cathedral. **Junior Choir** at 10:30 a.m., **Elementary Choir (Grades 3 and 4)** at 12 Noon.

**Note: Choirs sing regular Saturday and Sunday Masses Dec 22 to Jan 6 as usual.**



BACK ROW (L. to R.) Andrew Walker, Aidan Gunda, Johan Licht, Genosh Manuelpillai, Simon Yoannes, Darrin Wijeyratnam, Samuel Abraham, Robert Celic, and Mr. La Pointe FRONT ROW (L. to R.) Adrian Autencio, Liam Bishop, Angelo Pilla, Adam Groh, Blake Caklos, Jean Picotte, Sam Codrington and Zachary Crighton.

## INTERMEDIATE SOCCER 2007

With 10 of the 16 players in grades six and seven you could say that this was a rebuilding year for coach La Pointe. The team participated in the *South Region* divisional soccer championship at Riverdale park on September 25th, they played well but did not garner enough points to advance to the regional championship. Good luck next year boys!



## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

**SUPERINTENDENT:**  
**Ms Bernice Brand**  
 (416) 222-8282 ex. 2353

**TRUSTEE 2007-2008**

**WARDS**

1. Joseph Martino
2. Ann Andrachuk
3. Sal Piccininni
4. Mary Cicogna, Vice-Chair
5. Maria Rizzo
6. Christine Nunziata
7. John Del Grande
8. Oliver Carroll, Chair
9. **Catherine LeBlanc-Miller**  
(416) 512-3409
10. Barbara Poplawski
11. Angela Kennedy, Honorary Treasurer  
Diego Noronha, Student Trustee



St. Michael's Choir School  
 67 Bond Street  
 Toronto  
 M5B 1X2  
 Phone: (416) 393-5518  
[domnic.melino@tcdsb.org](mailto:domnic.melino@tcdsb.org)  
[www.SMCS.ON.CA](http://www.SMCS.ON.CA)