



# - The Blue & White

A Quarterly Newsletter | Fall 2007

## "Off to the Races" Bazaar a **SUCCESS**

On Friday, October 19th and Saturday, October 20th, MSA was "Off to the Races" as our annual Bazaar took place on the school grounds. There was a frenzy of activity for the weeks leading up to the start with planning, construction, and painting and of course raffle ticket sales. The students exceeded their target of \$100,000 in sales before the start of the Bazaar thus earning themselves a day off from school early next year. The competition among the classes was fierce with Grade 3 winning the K – 6 division and Grade 12 taking honors in the High School group. Stefano Ausenda in Grade 4 and Michelle Kelly in Grade 11 won the competition for most tickets sold by a student in the respective groups. Congratulations to them and all students as every ticket sold was a "win" for MSA!

The stalls were decorated with many different types of races in keeping with the theme for this year's fair, with the competition for best decorated stall almost as intense as the raffle ticket sales, which made the task of judging them very difficult indeed. In the end, the Grade 12 class came through again and took first place in the student category, while Cotton Candy crossed the finish line first in the adult group. This is a crowning achievement for this class as they have won the best decorated stall in the student category for all 4 years that they have been in High School! Talk about a winning streak!

All of this culminated with the festivities officially being opened by a memorable entrance from Mr. Paul DeCouto and several other motorcycle riders, who race Sundays at Southside. Mr. DeCouto and his brother Steven from Cycle Care generously donated a 50cc cycle for our major raffle draw.

We were blessed with excellent weather for both days of the Bazaar

and the crowds turned out to enjoy the games, refreshments and fun-filled atmosphere. Although all good things must come to an end, the Bazaar closed on a high note with our raffle drawing at 10p.m. on the Saturday night. There was a capacity crowd on hand waiting in anticipation to hear if they were one of the lucky winners as the tickets were pulled. Mr. Tony Pacheco, whose daughter Ashleigh is a Grade 12 student, was the winner of the grand prize, a Volkswagen Polo courtesy of HWP.

The Bazaar Executive Committee, comprising Michael Camara as Chairman, Chris Coelho as Co-Chairman, Beverly McPhee as Treasurer and Vicki Sousa as Secretary, would like to extend a huge thank you to all students, teachers, parents and friends of the Mt. St. Agnes Academy family, whose tireless efforts and generosity helped to make this year's Bazaar a resounding success.

Visit [www.msa.bm](http://www.msa.bm) to view more photos.





### *Chairman's Message*

The school year has started, the Bazaar has been successfully completed and the first mid-term break is quickly approaching. During this period the new administration, Mrs. Sue Moench, Principal and Mrs. Margaret DiGiacomo, Assistant Principal, have quickly presented and articulated their philosophy and expectations. Their approach in communication and inclusiveness has clearly been well received. This dynamic duo, who instantaneously has become a formidable team, has clearly demonstrated the effectiveness and synergistic benefits of one having middle and high school experience and the other elementary.

There is no question over the last three years the one thing that has remained constant for us has been change. Some of it has been good and of course some not so good. Naturally with a new administration one can expect the inevitability of more change. With this reality the new administration wanted to ensure that further change was managed so that it would be more inclusive and accepted. In so doing they held a thinking workshop which involved the major stakeholders of the MSA family: the faculty, staff, Priests, students and Board of Governors, which also includes parents and Home and School Association representatives. This representation and forum was a first of its kind for our institution. It was a great opportunity of brain storming and discussing many of the opportunities that lay ahead of us. Through this dialogue and cross-sectional representation, we were able to unload our expectations, concerns and desires. Once collated and integrated with our strategic plan, it will provide a clear path to where we want to go and how to get there.

In the last edition of our Blue and White, I reported that the Home and School Association was in the process of determining two new members from their ranks to be appointed to the Board of Governors. I am pleased to announce that Mr. Steven Antonition and Mr. Joe Kelly are now members of the Board of Governors. Mr. Antonition, a Certified Management Accountant and an alumnus of MSA, is responsible for Internal Audit at the Argus Group of Companies. Mr. Kelly, a Chartered Accountant, is President & CEO of Prime Management Limited.

It appears that we have been fortunate and blessed to have another successful Bazaar week-end. This event, one of the most important ones on our calendar, means so much to this school. It is the number one annual major fund raiser for MSA but more importantly it fosters relationships and a spirit of pride amongst all the stakeholders.

We are very fortunate to have had great weather and thankful for the commitment and hard work of all those involved. We are especially indebted to the leadership of Michael Camara and Chris Coelho and all those who support them. It always gets down to a core group of people who make things work and we appreciate their sacrifice on the school's behalf.

The Capital Campaign goal of \$5,000,000 continues to be inched towards. We are now at \$4,700,000 and awaiting responses on a number of solicitations that could help reach our goal. It is our objective to complete this fund raising programme by the end of November 2007. We are putting funds received to date to good use. Our Science Lab, which was completely renovated at a cost of approximately \$550,000, was completed for the start of the new school year. A \$500,000 payment was made on our mortgage principal which now has an outstanding balance of \$945,000 and the Facilities Committee was provided a budget of \$400,000 for this year to be used for a new fire alarm system, new PA and bell system, replacement of some windows and electrical upgrading.

The most rewarding and comforting fact that I have experienced over the last two months in my interactions with all our stakeholders is the love, passion and commitment they have for our school and what it stands for. It is the bond that helps us seek the best for MSA and the driver for the energy and hard work required to make it happen.

As we embark on another school year, let us not forget it is all about our students and helping them reach their full individual potential.

Garry A. Madeiros  
Chairman  
Board of Governors

### *Principal's Message*

The first two months have gone exceedingly well. The students were excited to get back into the swing of things and the teachers were enthusiastic about a new beginning. The new administration was eager to greet the student body and begin another year. This is the first time in the history of the school that the school has two alumni at the helm. Seventeen of the 44 staff members are also alumni. We have a lot to be proud of!

During the months of September and October, the school has engaged in a number of activities to enhance the atmosphere of the learning environment. Our day starts out with a morning prayer which provides our students with an opportunity to be reflective and thankful. MSA is a school that strives for high standards in learning so our classrooms are busy with challenging and creative activities to enhance learning.

Both of the school administrators spent the first two months visiting our church parishes and speaking about ourselves and the school at all of the Masses. The purpose was to inform our congregations about the direction of the school for the next few years. It was a great experience to meet so many of our alumni, parents, and students while we made our visitations.

May this school year be filled with God's blessings and guidance. May we all grow with knowledge and benefit from positive interactions with those we encounter daily.

God Bless and have a great school year!

Sue Moench &  
Margaret DiGiacomo

# New Staff at MSA

## Mrs. Mary Martin - Grade 4

Mrs. Mary Martin, a 1983 MSA graduate, returns to her alma mater as the Grade 4 teacher. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Fine Arts from Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada in 1987. Mrs. Martin's first career was at Butterfield Bank where she worked until 2000. After earning her Teaching Certification from Wheelock College in 2000, Mrs. Martin worked as a student teacher at West Pembroke School, then went to work at Victor Scott School for five years as a Primary 4 teacher. No stranger to MSA, Mrs. Martin's siblings William, John, Deborah and Julie DeSilva are all graduates. In June 2007, her son Benjamin graduated from MSA, and her daughter Rebecca is currently in Grade 11. She also has nephews and nieces here. Mrs. Martin is very happy to be back at MSA.



*"It is so good to see the faces of students so eager to learn," said Mrs. Martin. "Parents here are so supportive, too. Teachers seem to like coming to work every day, and that makes MSA such a great working environment. I'm thrilled to be back!"*

## Miss Jennifer McCall - High School Math

New high school math teacher, Miss Jennifer McCall, graduated from MSA in 2002. She went on to further her education at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, where she received a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Math and Physics. Miss McCall qualified as a teacher through the Alternative Certification for Teachers in San Antonio.

Originally Miss McCall wanted to be an actuary, but her love for teaching and tutoring pre-empted this plan. After graduating from college, she taught math at Memorial High School, San Antonio, for a year before returning to teach at MSA.



*"I must admit coming back here was a little weird, especially making the adjustment to calling my former teachers by their first name," Miss McCall related. "I am very pleased to be back and enjoy working with the students."*

Miss McCall teaches Math 7-1, Algebra A, Geometry A, Pre Calculus and AP Calculus.

Born in California, Miss McCall moved to Atlanta at the age of 8. Four years later she came to Bermuda where she attended Spice Valley Middle School, then Berkeley before joining the Grade 10 class at MSA in 1999.

Miss McCall is a woman of many talents. She is a wedding and party planner, magician, and enjoys salsa dancing, dining out and travel.

## Senorita Erika Bove - High School Spanish

Senorita Erika Bove was born in Caracas, Venezuela to Italian parents. She graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1999 with a Bachelor of International Studies, and has a Master in Teaching Italian and Spanish as second languages.

Her first teaching experience was at the University of Arkansas where she taught Spanish. From there she went to work at the all girls school Mount Saint Mary Academy, Little Rock (run by the Sisters of Mercy) teaching International Baccalaureate junior and senior students. She landed at MSA after responding to an advertisement in a Catholic education bulletin.



*"I always wanted to live on an island," said Senorita Bove. "I love it here. Everyone is so hospitable and nice. The island lifestyle suits me as it is very easygoing and beautiful, and I love the outdoors. Already I am very busy with playing tennis, doing salsa dancing and meeting people from different countries."*

Senorita Bove has lived and studied in several countries. After graduating high school in Venezuela, she went to the University of Bologna, Italy to study international business. From there she attended San Diego State University as an exchange student to learn English. She ended up in Arkansas where she played Division I NCAA tennis, and where she had friends from Venezuela who also played junior tennis.

Senorita Bove is really enjoying working at MSA. *"It is like a big family here. The students are great, and the teachers and staff are very supportive. I am having a great time."*



## Dollars for Hours

For the second year, Mount Saint Agnes has participated in the Dollars for Hours sponsored by Partner Re. Last year was the first year that Partner Re started the initiative to bring the youth of Bermuda and charities of the community together. The "Dollars for Hours" concept is project-based and offers local secondary students the opportunity to raise money for their school, while giving their hands-on support to local charities.

This year, MSA has been partnered with the Bermuda Audubon Society. On Saturday October 6th, six students made their way to Save Open Spaces, which is located in Devonshire next to Somersfield Academy. Once there, they prepared and painted bluebird boxes that had been located at the Mid-Ocean Golf Course. The weather worn boxes were instantly transformed into bright and cheery pink boxes with white roofs, which were ready for occupation.

The next meeting was held on October 13th in the Senior lunchroom, where 13 students had first hand experience on building bluebird boxes and then painting them. Building bluebird boxes is not as easy as one might think, but through determination 50 plus houses were constructed and painted in record time.

Thank you to Ashley Kiernan, Catarina Bulhoes, Eulannae Douglas, Rondrica Butterfield, Charee Butterfield, Matteo Lombardi, Megan Mohoney, Michelle Camara, Kristina Amaro, Andre Smith, Michelle Peichoto, Ashleigh Pacheco, Danlia Martin, Chris Abraham, Jeffrey Chisnall, Sue Moench and Margaret DiGiacomo for their excellent carpentry and artistic skills.

## Photography Club

On Friday, October 26 the Nature Photography Club went on their first camping trip of the school year to Port's Island. A group of twenty-five teachers, students and parents spent Friday evening and most of Saturday enjoying the island.

While hiking, roasting marshmallows, barbequing and socializing around the tents and the bunkhouse, the group was busy snapping pictures. A variety of cameras both digital and old-fashioned film were used to capture the beauty of Port's Island.

A small group actually swam around the island but no pictures were taken during that excursion! Check the school's website and bullet boards to see some of these great shots.



If you are interested in photography, come along on our next adventure. You will have a great time and perhaps pick up a few helpful hints on how to take excellent pictures!



## Alumni Message

Dear Alumni,

On September 25, 2007 we had our Annual General Meeting. While we managed to get a quorum, we had hoped for a larger turnout. With the quorum we were able to make some much needed changes to the Constitution, so we were happy about that. We hope to have a bigger turnout next year and hope you will consider giving a few minutes of your time to attend. Nancy (Fearis) Oughton, Class of 1976 came and spoke to us about the Hospital Auxiliary of Bermuda. Volunteers are always welcome.

On Saturday, November 17, 2007, the Alumni Association will be hosting a Dinner Bingo in the MSA Auditorium at 7:30. The tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 10 and under.

Keep checking the MSA website for updates on events we will be having in the New Year.

The Alumni Association feels very strongly about showing the students of Mount Saint Agnes that School Spirit and Friendship endures the test of time.

Come join us for Spirit and Friendship.

See you soon,  
Mi DeSilva

## Alumni Spotlight - Sister Cathy Stare



**Who had the values of  $\Pi$  (Pi) brought to as many decimal places that could fit around the entire classroom?**

If you have guessed Sister Cathy Stare, you are right. Sister Cathy taught at Mount Saint Agnes from August, 1978 through June, 1984. Her math students will remember her not only for her excellent teaching of the intricacies of math but for her good sense of humor and of course, her feminist views. Sister Cathy now resides in Richmond Hill, New York and holds the position of Associate Superintendent of schools for the Rockville Centre Diocese on Long Island. Sister Cathy's responsibilities include curriculum direction and development for math,

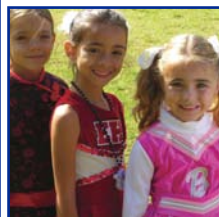
science, language arts and social studies as well as coordinating and evaluating all external testing as mandated by New York State. Sister Cathy also is a member of the Theological Reflection Team of the Sisters of Charity and enjoys quilting as a leisure time activity.

## MSA Golf Club

We were thrilled to have the once in a lifetime opportunity to witness the 2007 PGA Grand Slam of Golf. The four golfers included Jim Furyk, Angel Cabrera, Zach Johnson, and Padraig Harrington. All four golfers are ranked in the top seventeen golfers in the world.

During the TNT telecast, the announcers stated that they had never seen the gallery allowed so close to the players. We enjoyed every type of shot (drives, chips, putts) from every different angle (behind them, beside them, in front of them, above them). The golf was absolutely fantastic. The ending was even better as Cabrera tied Harrington on the 18th with a spectacular second shot. Finally, Cabrera defeated Harrington on the third playoff hole to end an awesome match. We learned much about the golfers and the game of golf. Hopefully, one of our eleven (Jennifer Chisnall, Briggs McKnight, Rob Saraiva, Ryan Sousa, Heather Sinclair, Samuel Lewis, Ann Marie Warren, Janice DeBraga, Jon Chapman, Justin Mathias) students will be competing in the PGA in the future. Many, many thanks to Mrs. Joanne Chisnall, Mr. David Warren, Mrs. Theresa Sousa, and Mrs. Moench for driving!

## Strange Visitors at MSA Halloween Parade



MOUNT SAINT AGNES ACADEMY'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS HOSTING A

# Dinner Bingo

Saturday, November 17th  
7:30pm

in the MSA Auditorium  
All are Welcome!

Tickets: \$20 adults  
\$15 children 10 and under

Tickets are available from the school office Monday-Friday 8:00am-12:00pm from Theresa Fletcher or you can contact Elaine Kelly: ekelly@ibl.bm or Sandra Abraham: sanabraham@northrock.bm

Deadline: November 9th



## Students walk for Breast Cancer Awareness

The Mount Saint Agnes Student Council participated in the BF&M Fun Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Wednesday, October 3rd, 2007. 15 students earned over \$1000 in sponsorship to be given to the Bermuda Cancer & Health Centre for their new mammography equipment.

### *We want your memories!*

**It's time to dust off those wonderful old MSA photographs!**

We are planning on celebrating the school's rich history by producing a Commemorative Book. We are looking for your contributions of photographs of the school, students, faculty and staff from all eras are encouraged. We would also welcome short stories (three paragraphs maximum per story) of your MSA memories. If anyone has old tuition bills, old concert programs bring them to the Director of Development Lisa Anne Bardgett ASAP so we can include them in a dynamic new picture book celebrating our 117-year history.

Be sure to include information about each shot - including approximate date, the location and persons pictured. This fundraising publication will be a tribute to MSA's history, which we want to bring to life and preserve for posterity.

Photographs will be handled like the treasures they are and returned promptly. The book is due to publish in 2008.



## School Calendar

The Mount Saint Agnes Academy Communications Committee has published a School Calendar for the year 2007-2008.

The Calendar contains all of the important dates that you will need to remember, including: report card due dates, school vacations, exam dates, uniform shop hours, concert dates and much more.

Calendars are \$10 and can be purchased through the School Office, Business Office, and the Uniform Shop. This is a great way to keep informed about all that is happening at MSA and to see photos taken throughout the year.

If you would like to reserve your calendar, please call Lisa Anne Bardgett at 292-4134 or email: [lbardgett@msa.bm](mailto:lbardgett@msa.bm)

## Rotary Exchange Student

### Alexandra Rochette



For those who do not know me or have never seen me, my name is Alexandra Rochette. I am of French ancestry but I am 100% Québécois. I was born on June 8th 1989 in the beautiful province of Canada, Quebec. I have always lived with my mother and father. I have a brother who is 23, but I have always felt like an only child since my brother left home very early and I don't have clear memories of him. But now, I will write about myself.

In my opinion, I am an ordinary but unique person. I have always believed that each person is unique and beautiful. I learned this from my mother, when at the age of 5, we learned that I had concentration and hyperactivity problems. This also caused memory problems which I have to this day. After learning about this, I had to learn to adapt to a new way of life. To help my hyperactivity, my father shared his passion for sports with me. I am the type of girl who loves to move and to compete in sports but who also loves shopping for shoes and handbags. I competed in dance and alpine skiing. I had to make a choice in continuing one of the two sports. I chose alpine skiing, a choice I have never regretted because I was able to keep dancing at the start of high school. Now I practice alpine skiing, snowboarding, longboarding and cross country.

## Always Be Thankful

The call to gratitude permeates the New Testament. An interesting quotation of the German theologian and mystic, Meister Eckhart, which gives us much to think about is "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," it would suffice." It is then very fitting that in these days as the year winds down that Canada in October and the United States in November celebrate a day of thanksgiving.



For us Catholic Christians the great prayer of thanksgiving is the Eucharist which is the source and summit of our spiritual life. God's greatest gift to us is His Son, Jesus, present to us in the Sacrament of Love. As we begin our preparations for the great feast of Christmas, let us remember God's gift to us in Jesus as well as the many blessings we receive each and every day. Then let a resounding, joyous thank you be in our hearts and on our lips, not only on Thanksgiving Day, but everyday.

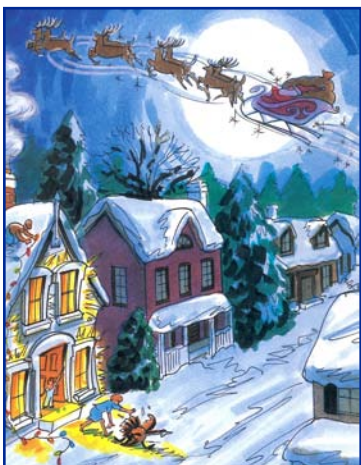
Sister Judith

We should give thanks every day, and this November MSA students may be more thankful than ever for an opportunity to earn an extra prize of \$100 for their literary efforts by participating in the Eleventh Annual Tom Pettit Essay Competition. Each October finds us anticipating Thanksgiving and the annual essay competition established ten years ago in memory of Tom Pettit, well-known American journalist and Emmy-award winning NBC television correspondent. It is organized by Patricia Pettit of Pembroke Atlantic, Limited with the cooperation of Rosedon Hotel.

Open to all senior school students, the contest aims to foster interest in creative writing, showcase young writers' talents and provide incentives to identify, examine and reflect on the positive aspect of life in Bermuda. Students are asked to write an essay, of five hundred words maximum, on the theme, "why I am thankful." In addition to the opportunity to compete and earn a grant of \$1,000 in the essay competition, Mount Saint Agnes Academy will be providing a prize of \$100 for the best of all essays submitted by our own students this year. Students may obtain further information and cover sheets from their literature and language arts teachers. We look forward to giving thanks for some fine composition work as well as some prize-winning distinctions for our students and our school.

Christine Eldridge

## "Twas One Crazy Night Before Christmas"



Mount Saint Agnes Academy is pleased to present its annual Christmas Concert, **"Twas One Crazy Night Before Christmas"** on December 12th, 13th, and 14th at 7:00 p.m.

This musical takes a light-hearted twist on the Christmas poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" with clever songs and hilarious antics. The traditional Christmas Tableau will also be performed by the Mount Saint Agnes Glee Club and the grade 12 students.

Tickets are available in the school office at the beginning of December for \$10.00 each. See you at the show!

## Elementary SpellDown

On October 24 the Elementary Spelling Bee took place in the auditorium. KoolKat also made an appearance with Mrs. Evelyn James-Barnett of the Bermuda SpellDown committee. They described the importance of the Bermuda SpellDown and the type of prizes given to the SpellDown winners --- push bicycles to the winners of the division level and a trip to DisneyWorld for a family of 4 to the overall winner of the finals. The Bermuda SpellDown competition will be held in February 2008.

Afterwards Mrs. Boyle explained the rules for the MSA Spelling Bee and introduced the twelve participants on the stage. After six grueling rounds, Sage Outerbridge emerged as the winner when she spelled "popular" and "teachable" correctly. Matthew Amaral came in second place and Mathieu Girard came in third place. All of them represented the fifth grade. Each was presented with large stuffed animals and backpacks loaded with gifts.

Mrs. Boyle would like to thank those who assisted her during the spelling bee. Mrs. DiGiacomo acted as the moderator of the Spelling Bee. Tiffany Sousa helped at the judge's table. Mrs. Vicky Sousa (Tiffany's mother) and Mrs. Mary Martin (fourth grade teacher) assisted in obtaining the prizes for all participants.

Congratulations to Sage and good luck in the SpellDown competition in February.

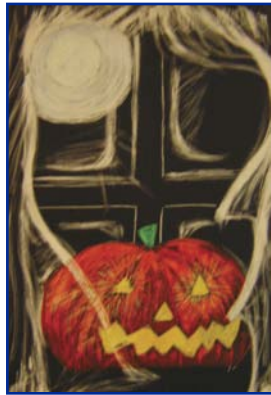


## *MSA Always Open*

When was the last time you actually walked through the halls of MSA? Have you only been as far as the courtyard? Auditorium? Gym? Why not drop by and see what changes have been made to the school? Whether you are interested in sending your child/children to Mount Saint Agnes or just want to come for a visit, MSA is always open for you to take a tour.

Drop in and see the students working away in the classrooms; checkout the new science lab and music room; or view the beautiful artwork always on display in the hallways.

If you would like to come and see the school please contact Lisa Anne Bardgett at 292-4134 or email: [lbardgett@msa.bm](mailto:lbardgett@msa.bm). We look forward to showing off our school to you.



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