



The Blue & White

A Quarterly Newsletter | Fall 2008

What would

VAN GOGH THINK?



The assignment: Each student in the Portfolio Art class were asked to choose a famous artist and then to replicate a piece of artwork onto an art stool! Sound like a challenge? Starting in September the students chose an artist and researched the style and technique of that artist. Some famous artists that were chosen were Salvador Dali, Georgia O'Keefe, Degas etc..

The students then needed to prepare the stools by sanding them down and preparing them for the paint. By the end of the fall term they had completed their very own masterpiece. The stools are on display outside of the school office.

Please stop by to take a look at these wonderful pieces.

Stay tuned for the Spring Arts Festival for more fabulous work that will be on display.



Monet by
Michelle Medeiros, Gr. 9



deUnde Cox, Gr. 10



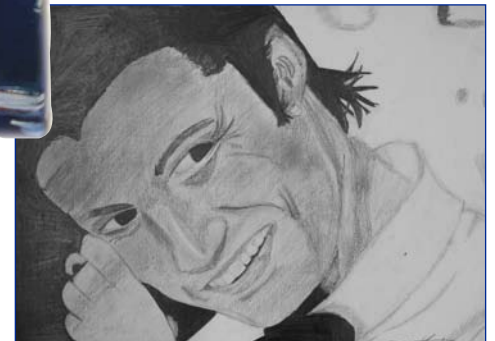
Brittini DeSilva, Gr. 10

Forever Christmas

The most effective Christmas celebrations are those that have all of the emotional elements of the season included, not to mention the favourite characters, songs, and traditions. FOREVER CHRISTMAS is all these things and more! Please join the Kindergarten to Grade 12 students of M.S.A in our annual Christmas concert.

From the quiet splendor of a snowy winter's night, to Rockin' and Rollin' around the Christmas tree to gleefully caroling from door to door, it's all here in one fantastic Christmas Festival!

The concert will be held December 16-18th. Get into the Christmas Spirit and come and see a spectacular show. Tickets are available from the school office starting December 1st. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children.



Stephanie Vincente, Gr. 10



Principal's Message

by Sue Moench

An enthusiastic welcome is extended to everyone who will be a part of the Mount Saint Agnes family for 2008 – 2009: our students, parents, school staff, religious community and friends. Each and every group within the 'family' is valued and respected. It is through the combined and cooperative efforts of all 'family' member groups that we hope to have a successful academic journey for each and every individual student entrusted to our care. A special word of welcome is extended to those who are joining our school family for the first time. For both those who are new and for those who are returning, we resolve to do everything possible to ensure that this will be a meaningful and memorable year for everyone. Our school community is committed to the fundamental values of our Catholic faith: every individual in our 'family' should expect to be treated with dignity and respect that reflects our awareness of the presence of Jesus in everyone with whom we interact on a daily basis.

As we progress through our school year, please be reminded of the following quotes from the prayer our Lord gave us:

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" is a tremendously powerful statement that we so often recite without much reflection. As we begin this academic year, if we remind ourselves of that single line from the Lord's Prayer, how gentle and welcoming our community will be!

If we can put into action the message from that quoted line, then how much closer we will be to being able to fulfill our Saviour's expectation of us as expressed in the Lord's Prayer:

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

May our academic year, 2008 - 2009 serve as witness to others that we truly understand, believe, and serve witness to those special words of the Lord's Prayer.

God's Blessings

Chairman's Message by Garry Madeiros

How quickly time flies, the first two months of the school year have already been completed. As always it has been an active period full of promise and expectations with the occasional challenge and frustration. The important thing is that we continue to progress.

I am pleased to announce that the Bishop has filled his three vacancies on the Board of Governors with Mrs. Lorna Dixon-Marable, Mrs. Marisa Stones and Father Paul Voisin. Mrs. Dixon-Marable is a graduate of the class of 1973 and her daughter Kimoy graduated two years ago. Her career has been in banking both overseas and in Bermuda. She is presently Vice-President and Senior Relationship Manager at the Bank of Bermuda and oversees the bank's Internet Banking Centre. Mrs. Stones was first introduced to MSA when she agreed to be on our strategic planning committee in October 2004. Presently she is

Manager of Secondment Services at Deloitte & Touche. In addition to managing client relationships and engagements she is involved in business analysis, processes and policy development. Father Paul Voisin is the new rector at St. Patrick's and also has been named the new Vicar General of the Diocese. Father Paul has come to us from his role as Provincial Superior of the Ontario Kentucky Province of the Congregation of the Resurrection. He has spent most of his time in Pastoral Ministry in Canada and Bolivia. While in Bolivia he was the General Director for five years of St. Andrew's School in La Paz.

As mentioned in the last edition of the Blue & White, a number of Capital Campaign projects were going to be done during the summer. Unfortunately not all of them were completed on the timelines agreed with the contractors. Our media center has been set up and is functional but the retractable partition, which will allow us to convert a large room into two separate classrooms, will not be installed until Christmas. We are also waiting for the two glass doors for

the rooms. Fortunately through the kindness of the Bank of Bermuda, who have loaned us free-standing partitions, we are able to accommodate different grades at the same time. Our new comprehensive fire alarm system is still not fully operational, although scheduled to be completed before school opened. We are hopeful that it will be complete and tested by first week of November.

Again we are fortunate to have another very successful Bazaar. Thank you to all who participated or contributed in any way. A lot of work and organizing is done by a few for the benefit of all. For those of you who were involved it has not gone unnoticed. The importance of the event from the perspective of community, fund raising and stakeholder bonding can not be overstated. A great "well done" to the students whose pre-sale of raffle tickets exceeded last year's sales.

The core curriculum review of K-5 commenced the week after the bazaar. Mr. Dan MacIlsac from Alberta will be working with us for approximately eight weeks. He is a retired Superintendent from Fort MacMurray Catholic school district. He will also be reviewing the K-12 Religion program.

I welcome all the new teachers who have joined us. You will find their names and a little commentary on them elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition, I welcome back Sandra Abraham who, fortunately for us, has returned to her Alma Mater.

In closing I want to reiterate a message that our Principal, Sue Moench, provided us at the AGM of the Home & School Association. The message was the word RESPECT and how important it was for our students to understand and learn its significance, and to use it in their daily lives. It is vital that we respect people's opinions, differences, cultures, heritage, property and privacy. All of us in the MSA family must be reflect on this value and model the appropriate behavior.

Sports

Middle School Swim Meet

by Dustin Ferris

The Middle School Swim Meet was held on Thursday, October 9th at BASA Pool. The following students represented MSA:

Under 13 Girls

Susanna Armano (Butterfly, Breaststroke), Amber Reid (Breaststroke, Freestyle), Claudia Camara (Backstroke, Freestyle)

Over 13 Girls

Samantha Armano (Breaststroke, Backstroke)

Mr. Ferris would like to congratulate the girls on a job well done.

O16 boys football

by Christopher Keane

The over 16 boys football team is progressing to becoming a more competitive squad. With increased participation at practice and several players taking on leadership roles, MSA has begun to experience some success. A tough loss to Saltus early in the year suggested that some changes needed to be made. The boys opted to be as competitive as possible and show the other high schools what they are capable of. They played in a six-a-side tournament and began to show signs of improvement. They then played Warwick, who had previously beaten them, in the tournament and tied 1 - 1. Come out and support your team.

New Faculty

by Bonnie Exell

Sandra Abraham is back as a high school math teacher at MSA following a two-year foray into the business world. She previously taught at MSA for 17 years after graduating from Mount Saint Vincent University and Saint Mary's University in Canada.

"I feel like I never left," reports the MSA graduate. "The faculty and staff are so welcoming and helpful and the students are the best!"

In her spare time Mrs. Abraham enjoys reading, walking and singing.

Mary Gregus

English teacher Mary Gregus comes to MSA from Exeter, Ontario, Canada. She applied to work at the school after spending summers here with her father, who works as a Project Manager for a local construction company. "I had been hearing great things about the school from friends who either went here or knew someone at the school," she explains.

Miss Gregus did a four year double degree in Honours English and Geography (Environmental Sciences) at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, completing her teacher training at the University of Western Ontario's Faculty of Education. She teaches Grade 9 English, English Skills and Global Studies, and Grade 10 English.

"Absolutely wonderful" is how she describes her experience at MSA: "I was told that the dynamics around this school are like that of a family – this has proven very true for me."

When she is not teaching Miss Gregus enjoys reading, painting, volleyball and running.

Jennifer Toope

Middle school teacher and track and field coach Miss Jennifer Toope hails from Newfoundland, Canada. No stranger to Bermuda, she has been visiting Bermuda since January 2007 to visit her fiancé, who works here.

Miss Toope, who teaches Math and Science to Grades 6, 7 and 8 students, earned her Bachelor of Physical Education and Bachelor of Education from Memorial University.

This is her third year teaching. "The whole school community is very helpful, friendly and welcoming," she says of MSA.

Miss Toope loves to coach and play sports – including track and field, soccer, hockey and more.

Brenda Henschel

Canadian Mrs. Brenda Henschel is MSA's Learning Strategies Programme teacher. Learning Strategies is a new programme at the middle school level designed to provide support for students struggling in their academics.

Mrs. Henschel attended both St. Francis Xavier and Dalhousie Universities in Nova Scotia, Canada. She has been teaching in the areas of English, Social Studies and learning support for 34 years.

Although she was born in Nova Scotia, Mrs. Henschel spent most of her adult life in Alberta, Canada. With husband Brian she has two children, Eric who lives in London, England and Beth who lives in Vancouver, Canada.

Of MSA she says: "MSA is a great school. I like that Catholicity that is shown here, the willingness of the staff, the students and the community to pitch in to help with the activities in the school. I find the students positive and the parents supportive. I am certainly thankful that I have the opportunity to work here at Mount Saint Agnes Academy."

In her spare time, Mrs. Henschel enjoys reading, spending time on the beautiful Bermuda beaches, skiing (on snow not water), and traveling.

Christopher Keane

High school English teacher Christopher Keane was born and raised in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. He has been in Bermuda for several years before joining MSA from CedarBridge Academy.

Mr. Keane obtained a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Guelph and a Bachelor of Teaching from The University of Western Sydney, Australia. "Love of travel and opportunity" brought him to Bermuda.

Mr. Keane describes MSA as great: "Wonderful, helpful colleagues, and parents and students who are caring and sincere."

His hobby list includes traveling, playing the guitar, reading, exercising and following hockey.

Todd Ober

American Todd Ober is from Charlottesville, Virginia and came to MSA in September to teach high school math. He has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University, and a Master's in Mathematics from The University of South Dakota. He taught one year of high school and two years of college before joining the MSA Faculty. His hobbies include mountain biking, SCUBA diving and chess.

continued on page 6



AP Scholars

by Bonnie Exell

Two students at Mount Saint Agnes Academy have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams. The College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the 1.6 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award. The College Board also recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

The MSA students who qualified as AP Scholars for the academic year 2008-2009 are Christopher Abraham and Matthew Sinclair. AP Scholar Awards are granted to students who receive grades 3 or higher on three or more AP exams (the exams are scored 1-5, 5 being the highest).

Christopher Abraham is currently studying for a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics at St. Francis Xavier University in Canada, and Matthew Sinclair is studying for a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biology at The College of William and Mary in the US.

Attention Parents, Teachers & Friends. Did you work the Bazaar this year?

Committee Members and Stall Managers would like to say thank you with an Appreciation Party on January 10th, 2009 from 6:30-8:30pm in the school auditorium. Cash Bar at Happy Hour prices, Hors' d'oeuvres and Raffles.

Please contact Lisa Bardgett at 292-4134 ext. 19 or lbardgett@msa.bm if you will be attending by January 6th.

We look forward to seeing you!

A Piece of History by Vivienne Gilmore Gardner



Did you ever wonder who created the mural in the school's foyer, or how it came about. Creator Mrs. Vivienne Gardner shared her story.

The Making of the Mural at Mount Saint Agnes Academy

In 1966, I was asked by the architect, George Grayston, to design a mural for the new Mount Saint Agnes School. There was no subject given or even suggested. So I worked on my own ideas for a subject, designed it and then made a bas-relief maquette out of clay, to the scale of one inch to the foot; I cast it in plaster of Paris. This I presented to the board for their opinion. It met with approval, and so I was commissioned to proceed with the making of it.

Because of the huge size (10ft by 40ft) it would have to be constructed in moveable sections. Working in my studio and front yard I laid out sheets of Masonite to the full size of the wall and drew on them the outlines of each section. I cut up these patterns and nailed them on to sheets of plywood, then built, around each pattern, walls to the height of the planned depth of each section.

On my property I have a quarry of very fine white clay sand which I brought up in wheelbarrow loads to my work site. Having been finely sifted I added some powdered laundry detergent to make it even stickier, moistened it and packed it into the prepared forms. The hardest part was to follow, for I then carved out of each one the reverse mold for the finished subject. The tree, the balloon, the wave and other simple forms were easy, but it was much more mind wrenching to carve out the shell for the shape of a face and the inverse folds of the drapery around the figures.

I filled these concave molds with a layer of white cement and sand and then backed them with concrete. Understandably these were extremely heavy but with the help of levers, rollers and pulleys they were turned over and the molding sand scraped away. Final details I carved by hand with chisels and smoothed them with sandpaper.

When the pieces were all completed the construction crew from the site came to the house and carted them away in large truckloads. Then big strong men hoisted them into place to assemble this extremely huge and heavy jigsaw puzzle.

Solo Performance...

2008 graduate, Devin McCallum is attending Anderson University in Anderson, South Carolina. He is majoring in Music with a concentration in Music Education. He sings in the Anderson University Choir which is a 60 voice ensemble that sings all types of choral music for worship and plays in the string ensemble.

On Tuesday, October 28th at 7pm, Anderson University's College of Visual and Performing Arts presented the Fall String Ensemble Concert. The ensemble is under the direction of Ms. Joanna Lebo, adjunct violinist/violist and featured soloist Devin McCallum performing Vivaldi's "Autumn" concerto for violin.



Where Did the 2008 Class Go? by Bonnie Exell

Abraham, Christopher St. Francis Xavier University
Amado, Kristina Rotary Exchange, Brazil
Baron, Chloe The University of Waterloo
Bean, Cynthia Bermuda College
Benjamin, Dane Bermuda College
Borges, Claudia Saint Mary's University
Brown, Shaun Bermuda College
Bulhoes, Catarina Bermuda College
Butterfield, Charee Mount Allison University
Butterfield, Rondrica Acadia University
Camara, Michelle Mt. St. Vincent University
Carreiro, Jason Bermuda College
Caton, Sabrina Bryant University
Chisnall, Jeffrey Wilfrid Laurier University
DeBraga, Janice Class Afloat
DeSilva, Tiffani Bermuda College
Douglas, Eulannae Central Arizona College
Eatherley, Fred Bermuda College
Flood, Tyson Saint Mary's University
Fox, Kashintae Dalhousie University
Gerardo, Matthew St. Francis Xavier University

Greenslade, Scott
Hollis, Shelby
Kiernan, Ashley
Lawrence, Phillip
Lima, Melissa
Mahoney, Megan
Martin, Alex

McCallum, Devin
Moniz, Ryan
Pacheco, Ashleigh
Pimentel, Erik
Preyra-Leader, Joshua
Pugh, Thomas
Shillingford, Javier
Silveira, Rafael
Simmons-Talbot, Terran
Sinclair, Matthew

Smith, Andre
Trott, Alexis

Bermuda College
Dalhousie University
Bermuda College
Bermuda College
Bermuda College
Class Afloat
Nova Scotia
Community College
Anderson University
Saint Mary's University
Bermuda College
Bermuda College
York University
Dalhousie University
The University of Ottawa
Bermuda College
Kingston College, UK
The College of
William and Mary
Bermuda College
Saint Mary's University

Alumni News by Mi DeSilva

Dear MSA Family,

Another school year has started and the Alumni Association is busy with planning activities for your enjoyment. We are having a Halloween Dinner Bingo on November 1, 2008. It will be our second dinner bingo and we have ironed out a few wrinkles that we had last year and expect a great night.

On November 19, Wednesday we are having our AGM and we are looking forward to having a decent turnout. Last year was very small but we have high hopes for this year. Please mark your calendars with this date so you can attend and offer any ideas or suggestions as we go forward to making the Alumni Association a great way to have fun, renew old friendships as well as make new ones.

Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for the Alumni Week in June 2009. The Alumni Week is getting bigger every year. Any classes having reunions this year PLEASE make the Alumni Week part of your celebrations; you can do your own thing on the Saturday.

Friday, June 12, 2009:

Cocktail Party from 5:30pm – 7:30pm in the school courtyard.

Sunday, June 14, 2009:

Mass at St. Theresa's Cathedral - 11:30am with a social after.

Friday, June 19, 2009:

Basketball Challenge, games will start around 6:00pm.

I'll put out a challenge to all alumni, which class still has the most School Spirit??? Prove it by being at the Alumni Week.

We'll keep you posted on any events we have by sending out e-mails but you can always check the MSA website. If you would like to be on our mailing list, snail and e-mail, please contact Lisa Bardgett at lbardgett@msa.bm.

We're looking forward to a fun year and can't wait to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Sincerely,
Mi DeSilva – Class of 1974

President
Alumni Association

Greetings Bermuda! by Kristine Amaro

I can't believe that I have been living in Brazil for 2 months! It is a great experience and I am enjoying it very much. I have learned to appreciate our luxurious lives back in Bermuda. Even though there is so much poverty in Brazil, it still amazes me how everyone is so happy even though they don't have much.

Being an ambassador of Bermuda is truly an honor. At a recent conference everyone was so interested in Bermuda and they were surprised when I told them the size of our Island. I take my Bermuda flag with me everywhere I go, along with a photo album filled with pictures of my family, friends and Bermuda. Everyone absolutely loves our school uniform! :)

I have met amazing people from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Denmark, Germany, Romania, Thailand and South Africa. Meeting people from all over the world is truly amazing. At the end of October I will be going to the Amazon Rain Forest, Pantanal & Bonito. I will be participating in different activities such as whitewater rafting, snorkeling, horseback riding, hiking, camping and much more! In January I will be traveling on a 30-day trip to the north of Brazil visiting Rio de Janeiro, Bahia and Brasilia. I am really looking forward to it!

My host family is great! I am living with Alcione Viana. She was an exchange

student at MSA. She was in my mother's class and is a graduate of the Class of 1980. She is a wonderful woman. My host brother is 21 years old and was an exchange student in Austria.

I attend Escola Dr. Alfredo Jose Balbi - Colegio Unitau. Classes start at 7:00 am until 12:30 pm. I have made many great friends. In my free time I teach English to 5 – 12 year olds at an orphanage and I am also a member of the Taubate Country Club where I participate in many activities such as dancing.

This year will be a great experience as each day brings something new. I can't wait to return to Bermuda and tell everyone about my adventures!

Beijos!



New Faculty

continued from page 6

Sufia Gulamali-Wicks

Toronto native Sufia Gulamali-Wicks joined MSA to teach high school French (she is currently substituting for Mrs. Kathy Valdes who is on maternity leave) and middle school language arts.

Mrs. Gulamali-Wicks attended a French immersion school in Canada before completing a four year honours Bachelor's degree in French at York University, Toronto. Her teaching certification was completed at D'Youville College, Buffalo, New York, USA.

Last summer Mrs. Gulamali-Wicks married Danny Wicks, son of high school Religion teacher Mrs. Karen Wicks. The newlywed says her MSA experience has been pretty positive: "Everyone here is very friendly, and the staff are all very helpful."

Mrs. Gulamali-Wicks enjoys drawing, painting, swimming, yoga and "loves her cats!"

Jocelyne Salter

New middle and high school music teacher Mrs. Jocelyne Salter joins the MSA staff as a colleague to Mrs. Alana MacPhee, who is now responsible for teaching Elementary School Music.

Mrs. Salter came out of retirement to work in Bermuda from Wasaga Beach, Ontario, Canada. She holds a Bachelor of Music from The University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Education from The University of Western Ontario.

"I look forward to the challenging adventure of working in Bermuda and working with MSA students," reports Mrs. Salter. "So far, I have enjoyed my MSA experience. I have especially enjoyed getting to know the students and their abilities."

Her hobbies include accompanying choirs and soloists, arranging music, skiing, golfing, canoeing and swimming.



A World of Christmas

Under the distinguished patronage of the Most Rev. Robert J. Kurtz, CR., Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda, the Roman Catholic Diocesan Choir will be presenting a Christmas Concert on Wednesday, the 10th December at 7:30pm in the Cathedral of St. Theresa on Cedar Avenue in Hamilton.

St. Theresa's Parish has undertaken major renovations on the Cathedral Hall and The Diocesan Choir and friends have offered to assist the St. Theresa's Parishioners with this effort by presenting a fund raising Christmas Concert, "A World of Christmas" under the very talented direction of Mrs. Julie Madeiros.

Joining the Diocesan Choir will be the MSA Youth Choir and all will be accompanied by Mr. Bruce Fox on the organ. A varied programme of Christmas Carols and music will provide quality musical entertainment for the entire family. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season whilst supporting the Cathedral Parish!

Tickets can be purchased at \$40 for adults and \$10 for children 14 and under. These tickets are available from the Choir Members, St. Theresa's Rectory and the Gift Shop.

We look forward to seeing you on the 10th of December and to a delightful evening of song and music!

Giving Back

Two new Bermuda books on the Christmas market feature this brilliant image of St. Theresa's Cathedral. The first title, a soft cover, *Bermuda in Art* – for lovers of colour contains 40 scenes taken from the collection of fine art prints produced by Joan K. Aspinall, writer/illustrator. It is the perfect gift for all those enchanted with our island.

The Tree Frog and The Poinsettia, hard cover, is a beautifully illustrated story following the format of the Twelve Days of Christmas and won first place in the Royal Gazette Christmas story contest. This book, a tale of a little Tree Frog who showers a Poinsettia flower with the Island's most priceless possessions, is deemed to be a must on every Christmas list. The Poinsettia learns the meaning of true love when she passes on all her gifts to the Christ Child, supposedly in St. Theresa's Cathedral.

MSA Alumni Joan Aspinall will donate a large percentage of all sales made through MSA to the School's Library. You may order through e-mail: pina@ibl.bm to receive the price list for her collection of books. She also has created a 2009 calendar highlighting the Island's 400th Anniversary.



New to Share?

Did you recently get married? Have a baby? Get a promotion? that you would like to share with the rest of the MSA family. Email your details to lbardgett@msa.bm for inclusion in the newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Sean Kelly, '02, who successfully completed his CPA Exams in September 2008. Sean works for PricewaterhouseCoopers in the Captive Audit Department.

Rebecca Madeiros (Marsh), '95, on the birth of her son, Toby Mason in August.

Rebecca DaPonte (Lindo), '95, on the birth of her daughter, Chelsea Anne in August.

A True Stress Buster by Sister Judith Marie Rollo

Look around, open your ears and what do you see and hear? All manner of things are in people's ears...cell phones, iPods, Blackberry devices, etceteras and what do you hear ... TV's are blaring, radios are screeching, bells and whistles are going off to either indicate beginning or endings from washers, dryers, microwaves and more. In 1972 as part of a seminar in science when I was doing my Master's Degree in Research Chemistry, I was asked to make a presentation on a topic that was currently or would be a problem for scientists to address. I chose **Noise Pollution** and that was more than thirty years ago! In my researching the topic I found that noise pollution was a growing concern on two fronts: too much causes stress and too loud causes an impairment of hearing. They enter the car and the radio goes on. They enter their homes and the TV goes on, they walk down the street and have the cell phone or iPod glued to their ears. Why are so many people afraid to be alone with themselves? In Psalm 46 there is a beautiful line: "*Be still*

and know that I am God." How can one develop an ever deeper relationship with our God who loves each of us unconditionally, if we are surrounded by noise, noise that jars us, noise that unknowingly causes us stress?

Yes, silence can be a stress buster. In silence we can possess our souls. You will be amazed as to how less stressed you will feel, if you were to take 10 to 15 minutes a day to just sit in silence or walk the beach without a sound producing object. If you are too busy for that, then drive in silence, and if your children are in the car, ask them to be silent for part of the drive. It will benefit both you and them. Don't turn on the TV while cooking or eating dinner. Savor some quiet time and help all your family members to do likewise. Open your hearts to God, listen to Him. Truly then, in listening to Him, you will know Him better and much of your stress will disappear.

Bazaar News by Chris Coelho

MSA went "Around the World" on Friday, Oct. 17th and Saturday, Oct. 18th, as the annual Bazaar took place on the school grounds. There was the usual flurry of activity in the weeks prior with planning, construction and painting and of course the sale of raffle tickets. Over the years the public have looked forward to this annual event with great anticipation. This year the students easily exceeded their target of \$100,000 in sales prior to the start of the Bazaar, thus earning themselves a well-deserved day off from school next February. The title for most sales by class was hotly contested, with Grade 4 winning the K – 5 group and Grade 12 taking honors in the 6 - 12 division. Dorian Frith in Grade 1 and Michelle Kelly in Grade 12 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!

This year the judges who had to decide the winners for best decorated stall did not have an easy task as the stall managers and High School students took this very seriously. The stalls were painted with ideas from a variety of countries in keeping with this year's theme. In the end, the judges decided that Grade 10 with their Canadian "Hit the Jackpot, Eh" took first place honors in the student category while Cotton Candy came first in the adult group with their Forbidden City and Great

Wall of China. All of this culminated with the festivities officially being opened by Mr. Alan Paris who was the first Bermudian to ever sail around the world single handedly.

We were blessed with excellent weather for both days of the Bazaar and we had an excellent turn out of people to enjoy the games, refreshments and fun-filled atmosphere. While 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. It was standing room only as the crowd waited in anticipation to hear if they were one of the winners as the tickets were pulled. The lucky holder of ticket #9176 "Let's Try Again" was the winner of the Hyundai Tucson courtesy of HWP.

The Bazaar Executive Committee comprising Chris Coelho as Chairman, Kim Powell as Co-Chairman, Beverly McPhee as Treasurer and Sylvia Coelho 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.

Anti-Bullying Program

by Bonnie Exell

Bullying will be stopped if the silent majority - people who watch bullying but are too afraid to act - are taught to get involved by supporting victims and standing up to bullies. This was the message brought to MSA at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year during presentations from two anti-bullying experts from the Canadian Dare to Care Programme, Ms Lisa Dixon-Wells and Mr. Dwayne Peace.

Middle school students (Grades 6 -8) participated in the Dare to Care programme, which taught them how to challenge bullies through informational and experiential sessions. It was a very powerful day for everyone, students and participating adults alike.

High school students (Grades 9-12) heard from Mr. Peace, a retired Police officer and School Resource Officer who discussed Surviving High School, a programme which addresses the complex world of social pressures faced by teens today, including bullying.

Student leaders from both the Middle and High School levels have been chosen to develop a plan to make MSA an anti-bully zone - a safe and welcoming place for all students.

Short Notes

Student Agendas

All students from Grades 2 – 12 have been provided with a Student Agenda. We encourage parents to become familiar with these agenda/planners. There is very valuable information in these agendas/planners, please spend time reviewing them with your children.

Curriculum Consultant

Mr. Dan MacLissac, Curriculum Consultant is working with the MSA teachers to review the curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 5. Mr. MacLissac is also reviewing the Religious Education program. We are hoping to have all the curriculum from K – 12 reviewed in the next year.

University Tour

A group of students accompanied by Mrs. Charlene White and Mrs. Sue Moench left Bermuda on Wednesday, October 29 to begin a tour of Canadian universities. The tour will begin in Halifax and conclude in Toronto. They are hoping to visit approximately twelve universities.



C Bee says:
"DON'T GET STUNG!!
Go on-line
& catch the best airfares!"

**Cheaper
than Expedia
99%
of the time!**

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A division of C Travel, 27 Queen Street, Hamilton, HM11 Tel: 292-3033 Fax 292-3205

If you know of an Alumni who is not receiving our newsletter please contact Lisa Anne Bardgett, Director of Development to put them on the mailing list. E: lbardgett@msa.bm or T: 441-292-4134 ext. 19



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