



The Blue & White

A Quarterly Newsletter | Fall 2009

Hear Ye!

Submitted by Chris Coelho

MSA celebrated 400 years of Bermuda's history on Friday, Oct. 16th and Saturday, Oct. 17th, as the annual Bazaar took place on the school grounds. Shortly after the start of the new school year there was the usual frenzy of activity with planning, construction, and painting and of course the sale of raffle tickets which over the years has become a fall highlight. 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. Alexa DeSilva in Grade 4 and Stefano Ausenda in Grade 6 won the competition for most tickets sold by a student in their respective groups. Congratulations to them and all students as every ticket sold is a "win" for MSA!

This year the Stall Managers did not make it easy for judges who had to decide the winners for best decorated stall in both the adult and High School category. The stalls were painted with ideas taken from the past 4 centuries of Bermuda's history. In the end, the judges decided that Grade 12 with their scene of old St. Georges harbor took first place honors in the student category while Cotton Candy came first in the hotly contested adult group with their Fitted Dinghies. All of this culminated with the festivities officially being opened by Hamilton's lively Town Crier Mr. Ed Christopher.

Unfortunately the weather did not fully cooperate on Friday evening as we had to close the Bazaar some 30 minutes early due to a lightning storm with torrential rain. On Saturday the weather held, although the humid conditions almost guaranteed that snow cones were a hot commodity throughout the day. The Bazaar closed on a high note with our raffle drawing at 10p.m. on the Saturday night. It was fitting that several parents and grandparents were winners as they have historically been significant supporters of our Major Raffle. Robert Roveredo who purchased ticket #11025 was the lucky winner of the Honda Fit courtesy of HWP.

On behalf of my fellow Bazaar Committee members, I 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.

This is my last year as Chairman of the Committee, and while I will not be in the forefront as in the past several years, I will still be working behind the scenes to support the incoming Chair, Kim Powell, and Co-Chair, Kim Arorash along with Beverly McPhee as Treasurer, Sylvia Coelho as Secretary and Lisa Bardgett for Advertising. I would like to thank you for your support during my tenure, and look forward to working with you again for next year's Bazaar. It will be here before we know it!

THANK YOU

Dear Mount Saint Agnes Toby Colombe Scholarship Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the Toby Colombe Scholarship Fund that I received this past year. The fund enabled me to take my track career this year to higher heights. By using the money to attend qualifying meets abroad, I was able to qualify for the World Youth Championships in Italy as well as the East Coast Invitational meet held in North Carolina. In both these meets I put forth promising performances ranking myself 3rd in the world as well as the silver medallist at the invitational meet in the triple jump. My experiences this summer were more than I could have ever imagined. Being able to mingle with the world's best athletes in my age group as well as a few professionals really encouraged me to do even better than I have been. Without the Scholarship fund I might not have been able to experience triple jump at a world standard, and for that I am grateful. Thanks again for choosing me to be the recipient for the Toby Colombe Scholarship Fund. I know for sure that Mr. Colombe would be thrilled to know that he helped me to be the best that I can be on the world stage. I appreciate the support from my school and I hope to make you proud in the future.

Sincerely,
Allison Outerbridge

Submissions for this year's nominations for the Toby Colombe Scholarship will be taking place soon. Watch the Comings and Goings for deadlines.



Students Hear a Message of

HOPE

On Friday, October 2, 2009, we had the privilege of being able to attend a presentation made by Beth Holloway, the mother of Natalee Holloway, who disappeared in Aruba during a high school trip in May 2005. While much circumstantial evidence would seem to point the finger of blame at those believed responsible for her disappearance, to-date the case is unsolved. Mrs. Holloway's presentation to Warwick Academy carried the undercurrent of hope that her daughter Natalee may possibly still be alive. Mrs. Holloway explained the part she played in the investigation, largely questioning the public on her own and attempting to find leads that might reveal what happened to Natalee.

Beth Holloway has appeared on "Oprah", "Dr. Phil" and all the major news networks worldwide, telling her story and making a plea for the return of her daughter. She also advised during her presentation that all young people should take safety precautions when traveling, taking cell phones with international calling capabilities as a way of contacting home in case of emergency. She furthermore expressed a desire to get to the bottom of the case and find out what happened to Natalee on the last night she was seen alive.

It was a great experience visiting Warwick Academy in order to hear Mrs. Holloway. They have an assembly every Wednesday and Friday for important announcements and presentations. The students were very interested in Mrs. Holloway's talk and were very well-behaved. It would be a great experience to be able to visit other schools in the future.

Submitted by:
Sierra Petty and Melissa Rodrigues

Principals Message *by Sue Moench*

Dear Friends of MSA

The 2009-2010 school year here at MSA has begun well! We are facing many new adventures and challenges at our school beginning this year. The most significant being the introduction of our new curriculum. While this endeavor will be a process that will take several years to fully implement, we have already experienced many changes. Both our faculty and students have embraced these changes and we look forward to great progress as we employ new standards to measure our students' successes. As you are aware, the curriculum we are adopting comes from Alberta, Canada. It is a well researched and highly challenging program that has been widely accepted by many countries throughout the world. If you wish more information on the Alberta Curriculum please visit www.education.ab.ca

We were honored to have Father Joe Palabuski lead us in prayer for our Opening School Liturgy on September 11. This was an opportunity for our entire school to pray together for a successful school year. On September 25, Bishop Kurtz conducted the Ring Mass for our Grade 12 students. We were very blessed to have the Bishop address the prospective graduates and wish them well in the grade 12 studies.

During the week of September 23, parents had an opportunity to meet with the teachers to learn about their child's program for this year. These meetings were very informative as parents learned about the courses and activities their children will be experiencing. This year parents had an opportunity to meet our new Curriculum Support Coordinator, Mrs. Sheryl Hawkins who will be assisting the school with the implementation of the curriculum. Prior to joining the MSA staff,

Mrs. Hawkins was the Director of Curriculum in Lethbridge, Alberta. She has a broad range of experiences ranging from teaching grades K – 9 to being a school administrator. We welcome Mrs. Hawkins to our school and wish her well as she pursues this new position.

Our Bazaar has just concluded and we wish to extend our warmest appreciation to all the parents and supporters for their time and talent. The Bazaar is an important function for our school and we really appreciate the efforts of all the volunteers. Each year we feel exhausted after the Bazaar has concluded, but we know it is a good feeling as the function is great fun and most worthwhile. We look forward to next year's event.

Before you know it our school will be in the throws of the Christmas concert. This year's concert is entitled "The Best Place to Celebrate Christmas - a musical tour of Christmas around the world. The play will be performed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, December 15, 16, and 17. It is a very special production so please plan on attending and supporting our musical program.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Sisters Dolores and Judith for the combined 100 years of service to religious life. We appreciate all they have done for us here at MSA.

Our school year looks to be one of significant activity and progress. May God continue to bless our efforts at MSA as we walk in His Light and in the inspiration of our school's legacy.

- MSA Reusable Bags -

Mount Saint Agnes is having a fundraiser of ultra-compact reusable shopping bags that easily fit in a pocket or purse. The bag's durability allows users to carry up to 25 pounds in each bag. You will use this bag often and not forget it at home as traditional reusable bags tend to be. **The bags are \$6.00** and can be purchased from the school - if you are interested in purchase a bag or bags contact Lisa Anne Bardgett at 292-4134 ext 19 or lbardgett@msa.bm.



Chairman's Message by Garry Madeiros

Change is not easy. It can bring many challenges but at the same time many opportunities. It is usually met with great trepidation and sometimes fear. It is sometimes embraced but most times resisted. As we embark on our curricular change, the reality of the above is very evident. During the process we must not lose sight of the purpose for this change, to provide our students the best education possible.

We must ensure that we develop our students to be the best they can be, prepare them to meet the challenges of the 21st century and provide them the opportunity to attend the University of their choice. In considering these tenets, we had to look at our product and the competition. Did we have consistent standards through out our educational system, did we have a fully documented, consistent and totally integrated curriculum, and did we have a curriculum that would best prepare our students for the requirements of the 21st century. The answer was no. Having said that, MSA has a rich legacy of accomplishments and very successful alumni who have made and are making tremendous contributions to our Bermuda home as well as other countries.

The new Alberta curriculum, when fully implemented and teachers fully comfortable and confident in its delivery, will meet all the objectives that we have set out. It is internationally recognized, widely accepted in North America and United Kingdom Universities and is based on a philosophy that students must be problem solvers, collaborative workers, community/active citizens and global thinkers.

I understand what change requires. A lot will be asked of our teachers in making this tremendous shift. A new way of teaching, on going professional development and the necessity of short and long term planning will be needed for the delivery of the Alberta curriculum. We pray that they will have the courage, fortitude, commitment and energy required to transition successfully. However, it is not just about the teachers. We all have a responsibility to support and work with them. It will require the whole MSA team, Board, Administration, Parents, Students and Teachers, committed to, respectful of and patient with each other to make our belief a reality. This transition process will take a minimum of three years to complete. During that time there will be many opportunities to

discuss concerns, be updated on successes and work together to ensure that the process is successful. Talking about change, the Board of Governors itself will be going through an element of it as well. At the end of August three members of the Board completed their third two year term on the Board and had to step down. Mrs. Nancy O'Hara, Mr. Paul Lowry and Mr. Paul Benevides graciously and voluntarily gave of their time, energy and skills for the benefit of our Institution and the MSA family. They were actively involved in sub committees and made very meaningful contributions to the governance, operations and facilities of the school. We are indebted to them for their commitment and loyalty, and I extend the gratitude, thanks and appreciation from all of us for their involvement in and love of MSA.

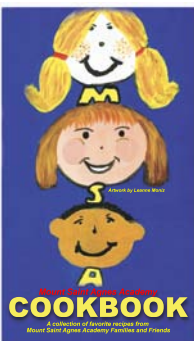
I am pleased to announce that the three vacancies on the Board have been filled with Ms. Susan Patschak, Ms. Kerry Judd and Mrs. Colleen Sinclair.

Susan Patschak is the CEO of the Canopus Bermuda operation, a position she has held since October, 2007. Susan has been in the Insurance industry for over 25 years with the last seven here in Bermuda. She spent two years with the ACE Group of Companies finishing in June of 2004 as EVP and Global Chief Actuary. She then went to Endurance Specialty Insurance, Ltd. until 2007 as EVP and COO. Susan is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and a Board member of the Leadership Foundation of America. Most recently she was the speaker at the Bishop's Catholic Businessmen's Luncheon in June. Susan brings to the Board strong leadership skills, passion for education and a vested interest in mathematics.

Kerry Judd is a graduate of the class of 1991. Kerry just stepped down as the General Manager of Aardvark Communications, a post she held for the last four and a half years. Before that she was the Manager, Communications of the Bermuda Department of Tourism (BDOT) for two years. Before the BDOT, she spent four years with Total Marketing and Communications Ltd. finishing as Manager, Research Services. Kerry is a director of Bermuda Employers Council, Committee Head in BIBA and a volunteer in the Mirrors Program. Kerry brings to the Board strong skills of marketing, communications and business process strategy and fervor to help young people.

Colleen Sinclair is the Manager and Director of Tewksbury Capital Management where she has been since 2000. Before that she worked at Butterfield Bank for 14 years finishing as Vice President and Managing Director of Butterfield Fund Services. Colleen has the day to day responsibility of operations for the Bermuda office as well as IT support. She is also responsible for recruitment and hiring of staff for an affiliated company in Pennsylvania. She is the mother of two MSA graduates and two current students. She has been actively involved in the MSA Bazaar and St. Patrick's Parish. Colleen will bring to the Board organizational skills, HR experience and IT oversight.

I welcome them to the Board and look forward to their active participation.



—MSA Cookbooks—

In the mad rush to get meals on the table, we sometimes forget what a joyous activity cooking can be. MSA has prepared a "special" cookbook of family favorite recipes. This book has been created to make cooking fun and enjoyable for the young and mature chef. We dedicate this book to all of our future *Food Network* stars. These recipes are tried and true so you won't be disappointed. If you are interested in purchasing your cookbooks please contact Lisa Anne Bardgett at 292-4134 or lbardgett@msa.bm. Thank you to all of those who helped provide us with your recipes. **The cost: \$10.00.**



New School Year - New Curriculum

by Sheryl Hawkins

Staff and students at Mount Saint Agnes Academy have embarked on a learning journey as the Alberta curriculum is being implemented. The transition to a full complement of courses and outcomes will happen over the next three years resulting in a well-balanced learning experience for every child. The decision to implement the Alberta curriculum was one that required hours of research, discussion and first-hand knowledge of the curriculum. Faculty and Board members worked diligently throughout the 2008-2009 school year to examine various programs and to determine which one would not only best meet the needs of the MSA students, but would provide the graduates with the skills necessary for a successful post-secondary experience. It was a long and at times exhausting process but the faculty and Board members are very confident in the final decision. The Alberta curriculum and graduation requirements are recognized not only throughout North America but also overseas.

At the elementary level teachers are introducing the students to a new way of thinking mathematically. Strategies that enhance the students' problem solving skills, mental math and communication of their understanding of mathematics are worked on each day. Students work together to solve mathematical problems and then communicate their strategies to their classmates. They are often surprised to find that there are several ways to solve a problem when all arrive at the same conclusion. Students are encouraged to understand the math, not just do the math. Manipulatives can be found in every classroom and students are becoming active learners as they work their way through challenging problems. We will implement Language Arts in September 2010 and will continue with Science and Social Studies in the following year. We have also introduced the Health and Life Skills program in all elementary classrooms.

In middle school we have implemented the Alberta curriculum in Mathematics, Language Arts and Science. Students are engaged in their learning through the inquiry process, the integration of technology, including the use of Smart Boards as an instructional tool, and working collaboratively with their peers as well

A Piece of History Submitted by Sister Judith

With yet another successful MSA Fair/Bazaar now in the books, it might be interesting to have a read about the first MSA Fair. The Sisters knew that they were going to have to leave "Woodlands" and needed money to purchase "Experiment Hill". The following is taken from the writings of Sister Jean de Chantal Kennedy.

"In 1892 the school at "Woodlands" was flourishing. In February, 1892, a fancy fair was held on the grounds. The winter is a dangerous time to hold outdoor fetes and this February twentieth and twenty-first was no exception. It rained on and off all day but in spite of the bad weather hundreds of people attended. Among these listed by the Gazette were the Governor and his wife, Vice-Admiral Sir George Watson, Lady Watson and daughter and many other persons of distinction. Booths were erected on the spacious lawn and where art goods, fancy work and refreshments might be purchased. The popular demand was for hot tea and coffee. Next to the refreshment booth was the cigar booth where pipes, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes were displayed. The doll display attracted the young fry. Dolls of every size, kind and description were on sale – the largest and best dressed collection it had ever been the pleasure of the "Colonist" reporter to have seen. There was a fish pond, a Punch and Judy Show, a wheel of fortune, raffles and a gypsy booth where one was sure to find his future traced out for him.*

The most novel feature of this fair, however, was a competition, to ascertain who was Bermuda's favorite Captain among the skippers of the many passenger steamers. One paid three pence to vote and at the end of the evening the score was as follows:

Captain Fraser of the "Trinidad" 2394
Captain Garvin of the "Orinoco" 1818
Captain Hill of the "Alpha" 1031.

The prize was a pair of field glasses.

The fair ran for two nights and in the evenings there was a vocal and instrumental concert. Through the courtesy of the officers of the King's regiment, the fine regimental band was in attendance each night.

At the final draw Father Hamilton drew a wedding ring which he presented to the young lady who drew the number. The fair brought in two hundred and fifty pounds—about twelve hundred dollars**----which would be needed for the purchase of the new house."

* *Surprising this...I assume it was in fun.*

** *The equivalent at that time.*

as individually. Students will develop the ability to communicate and demonstrate their learning orally, in writing and by using technology. The programs offered to the students will help them gain a deeper understanding of the concepts taught which will serve them well as they move into their high school years.

Mathematics, Language Arts, Science have been implemented at the grade 9 level this year. In Grades 10 through 12 students have been introduced to the Alberta curriculum in English (10), Science (10,11,12), Biology (11, 12), Chemistry (11, 12), Physics (11, 12) and Social Studies 10. We will implement Math 10 along with Alberta high schools in September 2010 and follow their implementation schedule for grade 11 and 12 math the following years.

There are many challenges when an organization of any kind is faced with change. Our teachers and students will learn together, will explore the many possibilities of learning together and share many exciting adventures. Our school is blessed with teachers who are willing to learn so that the graduates of Mount Saint Agnes Academy will be well equipped to face their post-secondary worlds. We live in a very global time where our students need the finest of tools to succeed in an ever competitive world. Our goal at MSA is to fill their toolboxes to the brim with only the finest of learning experiences that will help them succeed wherever they go and whatever they choose to do. We want our graduates to be global thinkers, problem solvers, collaborative workers and active citizens.

End of Year Awards

GRADE 7

The John DaCosta Award for the highest exam average for the year in Grade 7. This award comes with \$1,000 towards next year's tuition. This is presented to: Alexander Beaulne

GRADE 8

The Principal's Award for the highest average for the year in Grade 8. This comes with \$500 towards next year's tuition. This is presented to: Nicole Pimentel

GRADE 9

The Sandy Johnson Memorial Shield for Excellence in a Foreign Language. This year this presented to Shane Antonition and Kyla Sinclair.

GRADE 10

The Joan McPhee/Susan McPhee-Rhind Award for Dedication. This award is given yearly to the student in Grade 10 who is a vibrant and enthusiastic member of the student body and who is involved in all facets of school life either through active participation or moral support through his or her presence and assistance. This award is presented to: Rebecca Pacheco

The John DaCosta Award – This award is presented to the student in Grade 10 who has achieved the highest exam average for semester 1 and semester 2 combined. This award comes with \$1,000 towards next year's tuition. This is presented to: Amanda Correia

The William DeSilva Sr. Award is given to a student who is in Grades 9-11, is a active parishioner of St. Theresa's Cathedral, has

been a student of MSA from Kindergarten, has high conduct marks, demonstrates their ability to help MSA and be committed to help fellow students, teachers and staff. This award comes with a cheque for \$500. This is presented to: Celina Araujo

GRADE 11

The Rose E. Soares/Joseph S. Marierea Scholarship is awarded to the Grade 11 student who has been by word and example a true witness to Christian values of honesty, kindness and cooperation as well as having committed themselves to living as a responsible Christian has made outstanding effort and has maintained or increased their average over that of the previous year. The recipient will receive a 25% bursary towards their annual school fees. This is awarded to: Rhyan Weller

The Jason McCoy Award for Music is awarded to: Ashlee Brady-Kelly
The recipient will receive 1 term's tuition.

The Mark Lightbourn Plaque is given to the student, group of students, or class who has/have shown outstanding love, concern and support for a person or people in need. This year for their outstanding commitment to the Saint Nicholas Development Project the plaque is awarded to: Chelsea Soares and Tiffany Sousa

Grade 12

The Paul Leslie Smith Basketball Shield is awarded to a student/students who shows team spirit in basketball. This is presented to: Wagner Monteiro

Youth Harvesting Conference, Putting the You in University

Congratulations to Grade 11 students Ryan Amaral, Celina Araujo, Andrew Cabral, Jennifer Chisnall, Amanda Correia, DeUnde Cox, Stephanie DaSilva, Kelly Franco, Thomas Mahoney, Akira McDonald, Caitlin Medeiros, Rebecca Pacheco, Sierrah Raynor, and Heather Sinclair who represented MSA well at the first annual "Youth Harvesting Conference, Putting the You in University." The students were accompanied by Guidance Counsellor Mrs Bonnie Exell.



The conference, hosted by the Global Arts Foundation, focused on career education including college and scholarship searches, application forms, resumes, dress etiquette, essay writing and interviewing techniques, and was held at XL Capital. Each student was put into one of six teams – Trades, Business One (Accounting, Underwriting, Actuarial Science and Law), Business Two (Marketing, Human Resources, IT), Healthcare, Hospitality, and "I Don't Know (a diverse group of careers available in Bermuda). Industry leaders judged the final presentations.

Akira McDonald and Rebecca Pacheco, were on the winning Hospitality team. Rebecca Pacheco and Stephanie DaSilva were named the top two MSA students based on their interview, leadership ranks, resumes and research assignments. Well done!

Alumni News

The **Class of 1979** celebrated their 30th Reunion with a dinner at the Bermuda Museum and Aquarium Zoo on Saturday, June 13th, 2009.

The fun began as we greeted each other, laughing as we knew that we would recognize each other, especially when seeing a class member that we had not seen since Grade 6 - Mark Panchaud and meeting his lovely better half, Lauri. The tunes were from the 70's and 80's but the comradery was in the present. Drinks and a huge buffet of salad, sushi and hot entrees were on the menu and enjoyed by all. The tables were decorated with blue and white and allowed the conversation to flow across the length of the room. There were pictures on poster board (thanks to Joanne and Betty) from various years back, including pictures from other reunion events over the years, and sparked the outbursts of laughter and finger pointing amongst us! The DJ had us dancing to the beats that we remembered (and some that we didn't), but the pictures amongst the fishes were the best of all!

From the proceeds of this event, we were able to make a donation to the Robert Gullon Memorial Scholarship Fund of \$1,000.



Upcoming Events:

November 28th - Thanksgiving Dinner Bingo at 7:30pm in the Auditorium

March 3rd - MSA's 120th Birthday

March 14th - Wiggles Waggle Walk

March 27th - Easter Egg Hunt Party

June 18th - Alumni Cocktail Party

June 25th - Alumni Basketball Challenge



MSA's AP Scholar 2009

Congratulations to Class of 2009 Valedictorian Michelle Kelly for earning an AP Scholar Award in recognition of her exceptional achievement on AP exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Programme (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 performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award. About 18 percent of the 1.7 million students worldwide who took the AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

The College Board recognises several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams. Michelle qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. She took AP Literature and AP Microeconomics in her junior year, and AP Calculus AB and AP Psychology in her senior year, receiving a score of 5 (out of 5) on all 4 exams.

Michelle is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.



The Best Place to Celebrate Christmas

On December 15th, 16th, and 17th, 2009, Mount Saint Agnes Academy students are proud to present our annual Christmas Concert entitled: **"The Best Place to Celebrate Christmas - A Musical Tour of Christmas Around the World"**. An angel teacher has the task of assigning her class of teen angels and little angels the task of finding the best place to celebrate Christmas. Though they look around the world, they realize the best place to celebrate is in your heart.

Please join us as we travel around the world with our students. The M.S.A Tableau will finish up this wonderful evening of music-making and celebration. Tickets will be available at the M.S.A School office on November 30 for \$10. We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Whose Birthday is It? Submitted by Sister Judith

The Christmas rush will soon be upon us. Town will be a hubbub of activity, carols will be playing, lights will be twinkling; but on November 29th our Church will once again invite us to begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent. You are invited to pause, to take time to make sure that the Lord of heaven and earth is truly in the center of your heart and very much a part of your preparations for the celebration of His birth. We shop for presents for everyone except for Him whose birthday we celebrate. Make this year different!

The poet-author T. S. Eliot wrote: "What we call the beginning is often the end and to make an end is to make a beginning." As we cross the threshold into a new church year, and the last of this first decade of the third millennium, we truly need to pause for some quiet time each day to bring the family together in prayer. We need to pray for the grace to truly live as Christians and to be counter cultural witness in a world that continues to forget its Maker

On the first Sunday of Advent the Gospel reading throughout most of the Christian world will remind us of one of the major themes upon which we focus this season-....that is, Christ will come in glory at a time when we least expect. Just as in the time of Noah, we spend our days and nights in a flurry of activity, running from one emergency to another, addressing needs or is it wants that just cannot wait, hardly pausing to give God space to speak to our hearts. The season of Advent reminds us to watch, to be attentive to the daily comings of Christ to us in the persons and events of our lives in order to be ready to meet the resurrected

Christ when He comes to call each of us home and again, when He will come in power and majesty.

The second theme of Advent is to prepare to celebrate that moment in history when the second person of the Blessed Trinity did not cling to His equality with God but humbled Himself to become human and to dwell among us. The Christ of Bethlehem came to teach us how to live. As we look to celebrate another Christmas, the anniversary of His coming, we must ask ourselves if the message of Jesus has penetrated our hearts, our lives, our world?

Jesus has come --- but there is still so much unfinished....He has come but we still cry, and hate and yearn....His

message was one of peace and love and joy, and yet as the world races towards the second decade of this third millennium, instead of a Kingdom of peace we see just the opposite... violence, hunger and homelessness, racism, sexism, religious intolerance, "ethnic cleansing" and war. When will the Christ be born in the hearts of all humankind? When will Christ be born in our hearts?



The third theme is to remember that Christ will come to each of us individually at that moment when our earthly life is done. How ready will we be? Advent is a time to examine one's life and one's priorities. Taking just ten minutes of quiet time each day to focus on the true meaning of Christmas, to raise your mind and heart to God will bring an inner peace in spite of all of the self-imposed demands of the days leading up to Christ's birthday. A new Church year is about to begin! Seasons change, time passes but the love of God remains. Let us this Advent live in the love and the light of our God.

Who's New at MSA?



Ms. Vanessa Madeiros

Learning Support teacher Ms. Vanessa Madeiros is not exactly new to MSA. She joined our staff last year to fill in for Grade 5 teacher Mrs. Kelly Rodday while she was on maternity leave. This year Ms. Madeiros is responsible to help students in middle school who are having learning challenges.

Born and raised in Bermuda, Ms. Madeiros studied English and Geography at Queen's University in Canada, and Experiential Education at Prescott College in Arizona. She seems to be enjoying her work at MSA: "MSA is an extremely friendly and supportive place to work. I came here as a substitute and discovered that I didn't want to leave."

In her spare time she is a triathlete: "Training for and competing in triathlons takes up most of my free time."



Mrs. Sheryl Hawkins

Mother of four Mrs. Sheryl Hawkins brings a wealth of experience to her position as Curriculum Coordinator for MSA. She has worked in education since 1980, first as a teacher and administrator. In 2000 she moved to Lethbridge, Alberta to become the Curriculum Coordinator. In September 2003 she began working as Director of Curriculum. "My role has always been to support teachers in their classrooms as well and being a liaison between Alberta Education and our school district," she explained. "I sat on several provincial level committees and represented our school district at several conferences and meetings."

Born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Mrs. Hawkins graduated from a French Immersion high school in Edmonton then went to Faculté St Jean which is the French Faculty of the University of Alberta. She holds a Bachelor of Education, and a Masters in Education (Leadership) from the University of Portland in 1996. Leaving cold Alberta to come to Bermuda is a decision she is very happy with:

"I am thrilled with the decision I made to come here and help MSA in the implementation of the Alberta curriculum. Everyone at MSA and in the community has made me feel very welcome and a part of the family. As a mother of four adult children I have spent many hours in a host of gymnasiums watching volleyball and basketball, out on the soccer pitch, watching drama productions and enjoying the many activities of my children."

When she is not working Mrs. Hawkins enjoys reading, watching a good movie, working in her back yard and relaxing in the sun and visiting with family and friends



Dr. Rudolph Alleyne

Born and educated in Barbados, Dr. Alleyne joins the faculty of MSA in the science department. This year he teaches Grade 11 and 12 biology, Grade 8 and 10 science and Grade 11 physical education.

Dr. Alleyne earned a Diploma in Education from Erdiston Teachers' College (in conjunction with the University of the West Indies - Barbados); an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences specializing in Physical Education (Barbados Community College); a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology specializing in Human Movement and a minor in Psychology (Temple University); a Master's of Education in Kinesiology specializing in Sport Psychology and Exercise Physiology (Temple University); and a Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology – specializing in Sport Psychology and Exercise Physiology (Temple University).

"I came to MSA because I love teaching biology. I also wanted to get a different experience (from the public high school system). The experience has been great so far."

His hobbies and interests include working out at the gym, running, watching sports, politics, and multicultural and diversity issues.

SPORTS

Swimming *by Vanessa Medeiros*

We had a tremendously successful day at the swimming hole on October 6th.

Our girls came fourth overall out of nine schools, beating Saltus in their own pool!

Our boys (the brave and the few...two to be exact) came 5th overall out of six schools.

Individual results were:

Amber Reid – 3rd in the 25 fly

Cameron Paul – 4th in the 25 back

Susanna Armano – 1st in the 100 individual medley

Laurie Burgess – 9th in the 25 breast

Peter Kiernan – 5th in the 25 breast

Claudia Camara – 1st in the 25 free

Riley Ricketts – 5th in the 25 free

Susanna Armano, Claudia Camara, Amber Reid, and Megan Stecko – 1st in the individual medley relay

Megan, Laurie, Cameron, and Susanna – 5th in the freestyle relay.

Please congratulate these swimmers when you see them. They represented Mount Saint Agnes extremely well in both performance and attitude.

Let's all get ready for tennis season!

by Erika Bove

Calling all Middle and High school students to join the tennis team. We will be training, every Wednesday at the Tennis Stadium from 3:45pm to 4:45pm, and participating in inter-collegiate competitions that will take place in early 2010. For detailed information contact Ms. Bove.

Congratulations to the 'Lil Saints Summer Camp who have received their SunSmart Accreditation.

They received a 98% on their evaluation. The policy of the camp is for all students be required to wear sunblock, wear hats while outside, encourage the use of swimshirts on beach days, participate in SunSmart activities, teach children how to be SunSmart and to lead by example!



Team Spirit - *MSA Supports Breast Cancer Awareness*



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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