



# The Blue & White

A Quarterly Newsletter | Spring 2009



## DOLLARS FOR HOURS



Mount Saint Agnes Academy and The Education Department at BIOS (The Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences) worked together to continue BIOS's ongoing Woodland Restoration Project. Thirty-Six, Grade 12 students, from MSA, spent Tuesday, February 24th at Ferry Point Park removing invasive plant species and replacing them with native and endemic species. Students recorded data from the project, marking the location of each tree planted with a GPS location. They also cleaned up Whalebone Bay beach, picking up trash that had been washed ashore or left behind by visitors to the park.

Previous woodland restoration projects have been very successful both in terms of student enthusiasm and development of the native forest. Approximately 350 trees have been planted at current sites and many students have contributed to this endeavor, "adopting" their section of Bermuda.

This project's aims are threefold:

1. To teach students the principles of ecological preservation and management;
2. To inspire students to adopt and preserve an environmentally sensitive part of Bermuda; and
3. To lead students in active restoration work, to preserve a section of Bermuda parkland

### How To Respect A Teacher

by Taala Somner, Grade 6

You must respect a teacher  
You absolutely must,  
So DO NOT shout out  
Or she may fuss.

You might want to be quiet  
There's demerit slips sitting on her desk.  
So I would be quiet  
And do my very best.

Try not to talk back  
It may result in sadness  
Because she may keep you sitting there  
And you'll be behind in all your classes.

You must respect a teacher  
Try as hard as you can.  
And if you succeed  
You will become her #1 fan.

## Principal's Message

by Sue Moench

A warm welcome to everyone! At this time of year things begin to change. There are more hours of sunlight and the weather gets warmer. We see signs of new life. On Ash Wednesday, we began with the season of Lent with a focus on new beginnings and being gifts to one another. Just like Simon helped Jesus carry his cross, we ask students, staff and parents to help lift the crosses from others.

At the beginning of March, our middle and high school students participated in a retreat facilitated by the Oddwalk Ministries from Missouri. Oddwalk Ministries consists of Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnson, two very faith filled and musically talented gentlemen. Oddwalk Ministries exists to help young and old alike embrace life as Eucharistic people through fun, upbeat and interactive music and witnessing. In their time with our students they shared a message of community, participation, and mission. The retreat ended with a Mass on Friday afternoon where we were able to share in a celebration of appreciation and fellowship.

Our school has been blessed with regular visits from both Father Paul Voisen from St. Patrick's and Brother Ed Benson, Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Dioces's. Their visits have provided our students with an opportunity to learn from their extensive theological backgrounds.

We are very quickly beginning to prepare for the wrap up to our school year. We invite all alumni and friends to join us for our Spring Fine Arts Festival on April 30. This is an excellent opportunity to listen to some of our great musical talent and to look at the outstanding artwork. Come and renew some of the old MSA spirit. You will see that what we all enjoyed about this school is alive and well.

### An Irish Blessing

May the sun warm your heart and  
make you generous  
In sharing goodness and bring you joy.  
May the stars light your paths and  
dreams of unknown ways  
And bring you hope. And may our gracious  
God smile upon you and  
Bless you as you love, more than life.

## Chairman's Message

by Garry Madeiros

Already two-thirds of the school year is complete, and about the time you read this it will be Easter, the most important part of our Liturgical year, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Board of Governors recently hosted its annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation dinner. It is an occasion to thank our team for all that they do to make MSA the special school that it is. It is also the opportunity to recognize those individuals who have reached certain milestones of long service. On this evening certificates and awards were presented to Annette Boyle and Valerie Martins for five years, Theresa Fletcher, Anna Faria-Machado and Lesley Wharton for ten years, Eileen Murray for fifteen years and Karen Wicks for twenty years. Jackie Rodill and Sandi Cardoso were recognized for the five years they have worked in the Uniform Shop. Due to illness Gil and Isaura Chambray were not able to receive their certificate and award for five years in the After School Program.

I am pleased to report that through the Capital Campaign we have been able to make our final payment on our outstanding debt related to the field purchase. It is nice to finally be debt free. Our new comprehensive fire alarm system has been certified by the Bermuda Fire Service. There still are a few items outstanding on the contract but none of which effect the integrity of our new system.

The Board received a comprehensive report from Dan MacIlsac, the Curriculum Consultant, who we engaged to review the K-5 core curriculum and our K-12 religion program. We asked Mr. MacIlsac to carry out his review using the Alberta (Canada) curriculum as a bench mark. The report highlighted areas where there were gaps as well as those areas where our curriculum meets if not exceeds the standards expected by Alberta. This work provides the Administration, Faculty and Board a great opportunity to understand where we are and determine where we want to be. It is clear to all that we want to continue to develop and improve our curriculum so that we are affording our students a great education.

Our strategic plan for MSA set out, as Objective 5, the need to evolve our educational program to meet modern demands. In so doing, it stated that the evaluation of curriculum and school program should be an on-going process. In response to the curriculum review and our strategic plan, it was decided to send a MSA team, comprising of Teachers, Administration and Board members, to Alberta to observe the curriculum in action and meet with representatives of the Education Board to better understand their process and the direction they see it going. Our analysis and discussion on improvement opportunities continues. When a consensus is reached we will share that perspective with stakeholders who have not yet been involved.



## Celebrating 100 days

To celebrate 100 days until Graduation the Grade 12's were treated by the Alumni Association with a Pizza lunch.

To celebrate 100 days of school the Kindergarten class were asked to create something using 100 items.



## *Sports* by Dustin Ferris

This year, MSA competed in the Interschool Tennis Tournament with the following students participating: Jessica D'Estrella, Claudia Camara, Evin Mosley, Tadeo Krzos, Nicholas Coelho and Jonathan Phillips.

The following students represented MSA at the Middle School Girl's Volleyball Tournament in November: Heather Blee, Courtney Monkman, Rachel Soares, Shelby Camara, Kinda Bassett and Kaelah Ming. The players, as well as their grade 12 coaches, Michelle Cardoso & Melanie Lopes, gave a good effort and should be proud of their participation.

The Middle School Boys Volleyball Tournament was won by MSA and the following boys received championship medals for their victory. Ryan Flood, Dylan DeSilva, Tyler Lopes, Cameron Moulder, Brandon Sousa (Gr.8), Zach Stecko, Peter Sousa, Solomon Ming, Daniel Madeiros, Chris Peichoto, Brandon Sousa (Gr. 7) and Kyle Burgess. This team was coached by Eric Cabral.

The PE department would like to thank the following teacher who coached for their knowledge and expertise: Jennifer Toope (Cross Country) and Erika Bove (Tennis).

## *Track and Field* by Jennifer Toope

MSA had a great representation at the 2009 Track & Field school championships. This year we had a total of thirty-nine students compete from grades 4 to 12. Each student competed in a variety of track events and field events.

In the overall standings, MSA had twelve students qualify for the finals in their individual events. With the completion of the high school finals we have won five gold, one silver, and one bronze medal. Outstanding performances came from Keyshuntay Graham (2 gold medals), Allison Outerbridge (3 gold medals), Casey Castle (silver and bronze medal), Zach Rawlins (5th overall), Colin Rego (4th & 6th overall), Akira McDonald (8th), Dylan Pacheco (8th), Marco Araujo, and Raymond Sousa. Allison Outerbridge was recognized for her outstanding performance claiming three gold medals, placing her with the title of the top female individual score.

MSA has eight other students from elementary to middle school who will be competing in the finals this week. With one gold medal already, claimed by Brandon Sousa in the long jump event, we can anticipate more outstanding performances.

Congratulations to all participants for doing an outstanding job in representing MSA.

## *Cross Country*

by Jennifer Toope

MSA had a great representation at the 2009 cross country school championships. This year we had a total of twenty-seven students compete from grades 4 to 12. In each category there were sixty to one hundred and fifty competitors.

Our top runner for primary/elementary was Kenyari Ingham who placed 65th overall. Our top middle school runner was Samantha Armano who placed 15th overall. Our top runner for high school was Jana Stalinski who placed 5th overall closely followed by Colin Rego who finished 6th.

Our primary/elementary representation came from Lindsey Flood, Alexis Hurst, Joshua Allen, Ryan Smith, Tyler Sousa, Lauren Allen, Brittany Haller, Cameron Paul, Kenyari Ingham, Makalya Holder, Larua Burgess, Sabrina Pavao, Peter Kiernan, Michael Rance, Riley Ricketts, Marcus Darrell, and Nathan Bridges.

Our middle school representation came from Susanna Armano, Brandon Sousa, Samantha Armano, Dylan DeSilva, and Tyler Lopes.

Our high school representation came from Shane Antonition, Thomas Mahoney, Ilia Gerassimov, and Jana Stalinski.

Congratulations to all participants for doing an outstanding job in representing MSA.

## *Fearing the Countdown to Graduation*

by Exchange Student Jana Stalinski

Eating potatoes for breakfast, washing cars in the school yard, wearing knee socks every day – when it all started with an exciting idea and some surfing on the internet two years ago, I definitely did not imagine doing things like that. What followed was a lot of paper work, curiosity, nervousness, anticipation, frustration when being rejected and eventually the huge excitement when I received the letter saying that I got chosen for the Rotary Exchange Scholarship.

I didn't know where I was going until four months before I actually left, but even then – a name of a country doesn't really prepare you for what will eventually happen there. From there on, I googled "Bermuda" almost every day to find lots of paradisiacal looking pictures. As a result I decided to leave my scarf at home - none of those tourist homepages even mentioned that there are days in Bermuda when you just want to sit in front of a fireplace reading your book and drinking hot chocolate from dawn to dusk (and I still think it's abnormal to melt marshmallows in there). Fortunately my grandma made a new one and sent it to me for Christmas - I love wearing it after going swimming.

The first few months I spent away from home were the most exciting, but also the hardest ones in my life so far. I have had new experiences every day: good ones and bad ones; I cried a lot and realized that a few nice words or a smile from a person whose name you don't even know can make your day. Sometimes I just wanted to stay in bed, so that everything would be familiar and I wouldn't have to deal with anybody or anything. Luckily I have an awesome host family here, who get me out of bed every single morning and help me to be on time for the ferry – where will I ever go to school by ferry? I love everybody who welcomes me to school each morning with a joyful "Guten Morgen!" and I hope that you will never forget this foundation for a bright day.

Joining the school's volleyball team was one of the best decisions I made. It gave me something to do in the afternoons while getting to know people, and finally realizing how much I improved over those months returned my self-confidence to me. Thank you to all my team mates and coaches for being patient and supportive with me!

Today I hardly have a day when I don't know what to do. Besides my beloved sailing

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## Fearing the Countdown...

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classes I take part in after school, I volunteer at a little pre-school in Southampton. I love spending time with those incredible kids and I am always amazed at how fast time passes by when trying to save ourselves from the sharks that hide in the bushes or just reading a book.

Friends for a lifetime – I definitely found some here and I love taking part in the many school activities with them and my class mates. I will always remember our Christmas concert, the grocery packing and I will never forget to visit Aaron – our tree at Ferry Reach – every time I return to Bermuda. I also like our assemblies and masses (and missing some classes because of that). At my school in Germany, mass would be optional and so there would never be more than one third of our students attending. (I have never heard of a German school that has its own song or pledge either.)

Even though I honestly cannot imagine going back to Germany right now (I admit, even though they look nice, I fear our countdown-to-graduation stars), I am looking forward to holding my High School diploma at the end of the year and I am happy that I have improved in my literature class. Of course, I am also excited about prom.

After school finishes I am going to take part in the Tall Ship Race and literally end my exchange year by sailing away. I will leave from Charleston and sail to Germany where a cold, rainy summer with lots of old memories is waiting for me. I will have to study a lot as well as I am going to complete two more years of school at home. After that I am planning to go off to university – but definitely not in Germany. I love my home country more than ever but this year gave me an idea of how big our world is and how exciting life can be.

Thanks to every single one of you who helped me to find my place in our school. Without this support, those little conversations, invitations or attempts to learn some German I would definitely not be who I am today.

## Alumni Spotlight

### MICHAEL SINCLAIR

sinclai@uwaterloo.ca

#### MSA Post-Graduation Experience

Since graduating from Mount Saint Agnes Academy in 2004, my life has been an unanticipated, but fulfilling journey. Studying mechanical engineering at the University of Waterloo (UW) in Canada has been an awesome experience. Getting involved with just a few of the numerous student teams, such as the robotics and solar car teams, has been a great way to apply theory from lectures and to gain practical experience from designing and fabricating designs in the student machine shop.



The most rewarding part of my education has been the co-op work experience, which has given me the opportunity to branch out and gain knowledge in other areas beyond mechanical engineering. All of the engineering disciplines at UW are co-op, as well as most other degree programs such as math, business, and computer science. The co-op program interweaves work terms with study terms which alternate every four months. This will allow me to graduate (this June) with two years of practical work experience.

The power of co-op has allowed me to sample different industries, to contribute to companies in a real way, and to travel. Not to mention that I have earned income along the way. My experience of co-op has been invaluable and has allowed me to work for some notable companies.

My first three co-op work terms, I came back to Bermuda and had the opportunity to work for BELCO, in the Energy Supply Group. Over my three work terms at BELCO, I was involved in a fuel line modification to the gas turbines, performed research into renewable energy, and learned about the BELCO generation plant while being involved with the preventative maintenance team.



The remaining three co-op terms I worked abroad to gain some international work experience. My fourth term I spent twenty minutes north of Toronto, in Woodbridge, where I worked at D&V Electronics. This company produces automated testing and endurance equipment for the automotive industry to test components such as starter motors, alternators, and hybrid motors. My time at D&V consisted of sheet metal fabrication as well as producing electrical schematics for sub-systems of the larger machines. On occasion, I'd venture into Toronto to meet up with friends to go rock-climbing or to just explore the city of Toronto.

For my fifth co-op work experience, I had the opportunity to work at Research In Motion (RIM), known to many as BlackBerry. My position at RIM involved developing and testing software and hardware for their Camera Development team.

One of the greatest perks with working at RIM was that everyone had a BlackBerry for work, and the ability to switch devices to get the latest and greatest technology, even before public release. The biggest disappointment of working at RIM was the end – I had to relinquish my BlackBerry. It was only then that I fully realized how addicting it is to always be connected.



Having worked at one 'fruity' company, it only seemed fit to work at another one, which ended up landing me in California, working at Apple. There, I worked in the Technology



Advancement Group where I designed circuit boards, experimented with new technologies, and contributed patentable ideas. The Apple culture was unlike anywhere I had worked before: there was no dress code. I saw everything from proper business attire to barefoot employees in tie-dyed shirts. But I was reminded of an important lesson: never to judge someone by their appearance. I met some of the most intelligent and creative people at Apple. For my first three months in California, the

weather was warm and sunny, with blue skies every day. Then December rolled around and brought with it the cold. However, that didn't stop me from mountain biking, learning how to surf, hiking, or exploring California through many road trips.

The foundation MSA provided helped me to have the confidence to pursue my dreams. It is the value of this education that opened the doors for me to get into my first-choice university in the mechanical engineering program. The mechanical engineering program at UW then provided me with the necessary fundamentals and principles, which have allowed me to specialize within several fields of engineering and to work for companies I had only read about in magazines. But this was not without hard work – many all-nighters which were the real lessons you could never sleep through.

From all of my time abroad, I have come to appreciate how fortunate that we are in Bermuda with all of the potential opportunities that are available to us. I am just one of the many examples of MSA graduates that aim to make a difference in the world by grasping opportunities that are available. I hope that this remains the case for many future MSA graduates.

## *News 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](mailto:lbardgett@msa.bm) for inclusion in the newsletter.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Tamara Lewis (Pratt), '90**, on the birth of her twin daughters, Mackenzie Ann and Callie Ann in February.

**Kelly Rodday (Grade 5 Teacher)**, on the birth of her daughter Paige Gwendolyn who was born in February.

**Stacey Pimentel (Pereira), ('94), Emily Sinclair (Gr. 3) and Braedon Cooke (Gr. 1)** for shaving their hair off for cancer.



## *Alumni Spotlight*

### **NADIA AGUIAR**

Nadia graduated in the Class of 1996.

#### *Who was your favorite teacher and why?*

Patty Hoffman, my seventh-grade teacher. She let me go to the library to write stories.

#### *What do you remember most about your time at Mount Saint Agnes Academy?*

How long I spent there! I remember my classmates and teachers. I remember dreading certain classes and loving others. I remember the excitement of the last day of school before the summer and of turning 16 and getting to ride my bike to school for the first time. Things blur together - the smell of textbooks and other people's lunches; the Bazaar each October; the din in the cavernous old lunchroom; the hours spent staring at the painting of the angels in St. Theresa's; after-school sports; and field trips, including one on a submarine.

#### *What are you doing now?*

I'm a writer. My first book, *The Lost Island of Tamarind*, was published last fall in the US by Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan, and in January in the UK by Puffin.

Tamarind is the first book in a young adult trilogy about three siblings who discover a magical island not on any map in the known world. I'm currently finishing the first draft of the second book now.



#### *What is the best part of your job now?*

Getting to spend so much of each day in my own imagination.

#### *What has been the most memorable time of your life since leaving MSA?*

Getting to travel and to live in other places in the world. I have spent thirteen years living abroad and it has given me a new appreciation of Bermuda and how special the community is. I returned home a year-and-a-half ago. I'm most proud of writing my first book and finding a publisher for it - it was truly exciting and I feel very lucky.

Dear MSA Family,

Can you believe that it is March already? Time is going by very quickly and the Alumni Association Committee is busy preparing events for all of you.

Our next function is an Easter Party for the little ones. It will be held in the MSA Courtyard on Saturday, March 28 at 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. It is for children ages 2 to Grade 2 or P3. We are asking that all children be accompanied by an adult, please. Last year was the first time we did this and the children AND adults had a great time. If anyone would like to help out with the party next year, please contact me at [mi@logic.bm](mailto:mi@logic.bm).

We have repeated the Yankee Candle fundraiser again as it was very successful and we needed to get a few more dollars into the pot.

The "Annual Alumni Week" is fast approaching and we are busy getting organized for it. Each year it has grown and in my last newsletter I put out a challenge for the class with the most "School Spirit" to show us by the number of classmates that turn up for the week. I'll try and think of something as a "reward" for the winners!!

I ask that you support the Association as much as possible for your own enjoyment but also to show the students of MSA that we are all one family and with each others help we can make all things possible.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,  
Mi DeSilva – Class of '74

President  
MSA Alumni Association

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

The Class of '72 are asking you to circle October 10th, 2009 on your calendar. Members of Gail Kneisler's class are planning a "70's Bash" at the Fairmont Hamilton Princess to raise money for Gail Kneisler's Scholarship Fund.

More details to follow.



## A Special Visit

On Friday, February 20th students in grades 7, 11 and 12 had the rare privilege of participating in a Mass celebrated by a Cardinal. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick was in Bermuda to participate in the Eighth Annual Diocesan Assembly. It was the first formal visit by a Cardinal to Bermuda and his visit was a very special grace for all who attended his Masses or listened to his presentation at the annual assembly. At the Mass, the students' attention was riveted on the Cardinal when he spoke personally to them about the words of the Gospel, "What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" The Cardinal stressed that money and power will not bring happiness. His message was powerful: "Live your life in such a way as to make a difference in our world." This is a goal that is worthy of all of us.



## Alumni Spotlight MAJOR BRIAN GONSALVES

Educated at Mount Saint Agnes Academy (Class of '84), Brian developed an early interest in the military through the Bermuda Regiment's Junior Leaders Programme. He went on to participate in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at St Leo College in Florida where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management.



On return to Bermuda, Brian joined the Bermuda Regiment in June 1988 and was later commissioned in January of the following year after passing out from The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, UK. He continued service in the Bermuda Regiment as a Platoon Commander and in 1991 completed the Platoon Commanders' Battle Camp in the UK.

Through to 1994, Brian developed his civilian career in the financial services industry, working for AIG and later Oil Insurance. He then joined the Regiment on a full time basis for two years as Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor.

Brian rejoined full time staff and was the first member of the Bermuda Regiment to deploy as part of the International Military Advisory Training Team (IMATT) in Sierra Leone in 2001. He completed a six-month tour in the West African country as Battalion Advisor.

Brian went on to further his civilian career with the Bank of Butterfield and later AON, while remaining very active in the Regiment. Brian assumed the full time appointment of Training Officer in 2006. Since 2004, Brian has also held the appointment of Regiment Second-in-Command.

He is married to Judy and they have two sons: Jason (12) and Bryce (10). For recreation he enjoys boating, physical fitness, family time and working around the house.

Asked what is the best part of his job? Brian replied, "I love being a soldier. I was made to be one. I love the camaraderie, adventure, esprit de corps and the best part is being part of a team. The Regiment affords everyone who joins the opportunity to travel to many different countries around the world to train, and assist others. I recently lead the reece team to Turks & Caicos (TCI) after the Cat 4 Hurricane devastated the island. Upon returning, I personally organized the Military airlift with the USCG. Although very stressful, it was extremely rewarding to see elements of the Regiment deploy on those two C-130 Hercules knowing we (Bermuda) were sending humanitarian assistance to a country in desperate need.

Brian shared some accomplishments that he is most proud of completing:

- Completing College
- Completing Airborne School – Army Parachutist
- Being a husband and father, hoping that I am doing a good enough job at both
- Operational Tour of Duty in Sierra Leone for 6 months (2001/2) – I was the first Bermuda regiment soldier to do this, 6 more followed
- Last November having to speak at my father's funeral. I was devastated having lost my father and mentor. But I knew I would have to share with everyone the life my father had. I had to muster all the strength I could in order to stand up in front of the congregation and share with them all the wonderful things my father did during his life, how fantastic he was. I know my father would be proud of me.
- Being selected as the next Commanding Officer of the Bermuda Regiment.

## A Piece of History original writing by Sister Jean de Chantal Kennedy

### Wednesday, July 19, 1890 - First Closing

An unusually interesting and pleasant afternoon was spent at the "Woodlands" Academy in listening to the closing exercises of girls who attended the school since March last year. The audience, composed of His Excellency the Governor, Mrs. Newdegate, the parents and friends of several of the children and others who had been invited. Recitations in English and French, chorus singing and piano and violin playing elicited general expressions of applause and surprise from the older ones who were present as audience.

Ribbons of honor for Good Conduct were awarded to Misses Ayde-Curran, Talbet, Johnson, West and G. Tucker. Crowns of Merit for Observance of the Rules were bestowed upon Misses Ayde-Curran, Talbet, West, G. Tucker, Keeney, Outerbridge, Shortt, N. Tucker, F. Ingham, M. Ingham, M. Mackey, E. Kruger, A. Wainwright, J. Munroe, C. Chappa, E. Hollis and J. Hollis. Proceedings were brought to a close by remarks addressed to the

## *Christ Lives...and So Shall We!* by Sister Judith Marie Rollo

I am writing this on the eve of a young man's funeral. Kevin Mooney, a 1997 graduate of Mount Saint Agnes, has been called home to His God. What a joy and consolation it is to have a faith that tells us that Kevin lives on ... as Christ lives on and as each of us will live on after these mortal bodies succumb to sickness, accident or old age. In Saint Paul's first letter to the Corinthians we read: "...and if Christ has not been raised, then empty, too, is our preaching; empty too, your faith." But we know and we believe that Christ has risen and so with the prophet we can say: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where O death, is your sting?"

Spring is upon us with signs of new life everywhere. The great Season of Easter is dawning. Easter, with its promise that for those who believe life never ends but is merely changed, calls us to renew our Baptismal promises. We need to pay attention to what we promise. This is a season to

deepen our faith and to live in hope. We are beset from all sides with those who would destroy our faith. During his presentation at the Diocesan Annual Assembly Cardinal McCarrick stated that one of the major issues in our Church today is the growing lack of faith. During the fifty days from Easter to Pentecost why not set aside some time to examine your faith barometer. Where does God fit in as you go through each day? Pope Benedict in a recent letter to the bishops made this statement: "The real problem at this moment of our history is that God is disappearing from the human horizon, and, with the dimming of the light which comes from God, humanity is losing its bearings, with increasingly evident destructive effects." If God is not a daily player in our day to day lives, then indeed death can overwhelm us. But Easter happened, Jesus rose and so shall we!

## *Bermuda National Debate*

The Bermuda national debate team recently returned home after competing in the 21st annual World Schools Debate Championships which took place in February in Athens, Greece. The five Bermuda debaters - Jacari Brimmer-Landy (Saltus), Ellisse Johnston (Saltus), Michelle Kelly (MSA), Nikki-Lynn Marshall (BHS) and Nicholas Rinehimer (Saltus).

More than 200 students from 39 countries took part in the English language competition which used a three person, parliamentary-style debate format. Despite such stiff competition the Bermuda team was very successful with a total of four wins out of eight rounds of debate ending up 22nd in the final ranking, ahead of strong teams such as USA and Israel. In terms of individual results, Michelle Kelly tied for 35th overall which is a great result for Bermuda. Topics fielded by the Bermuda team included whether cultural treasures should be returned to their areas of origin, the expanded use of nuclear energy, whether terrorism is ever justified, the ban of smoking in public places, whether public services are best run by private companies, whether or not to eat meat and other interesting topics.

Jennifer Haworth (Class of '98), president of the Bermuda Debate Society and former Worlds debater, said: "The debaters have returned to Bermuda not only better debaters, but they have been enriched by the wonderful experience of traveling to another country and meeting others from around the world. Congratulations to the debaters on their success. Your hard work paid off!"

## *National Quiz* by Annette Boyle

Congratulations to the 2009 quiz team who have been preparing since November 2008 for this year's quiz which was scheduled to be held in April. Each student is given 250 questions in each of the four categories: Geography and History, Wild Card, Sports, Music Arts and Personalities to study. The Current Events category covers different sections of the *Royal Gazette* from November 3, 2008 to January 31, 2009. The team is made up of: Michelle Medeiros (Captain), Sally Laing, Kyla Sinclair, Stephanie Soares, Sage Outerbridge and Karen Marino. Coaches are Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Moulder and Mr. DeSa. Unfortunately due to lack of participation by other schools the competition has been cancelled for this year.



## *Exchange Student*

by Wagner Monteiro

It is strange to think that I will be leaving the Island in less than 4 months and going back to Brazil, to my normal life, to my family, to my old friends, going back to my old school, graduating there, having to make very important decisions, deciding what I'm going to do with my life, which college, what courses.

When I think about this I feel good, but bad at the same time. It is good to think of going back to my country, friends and family, but thinking of leaving my second home, new friends and new families is definitely a bad feeling!

Being a student at Mount Saint Agnes Academy has been great. It was really good to arrive at the school, where many people, on the first days, came to say "hello" in the hallways, saying my name or "Brazil", it was a very good arrival.

Getting used to the school wasn't the easiest thing, the different ways things were done, the schedule, and new people to meet! I've been enjoying the courses that I take at school, learning a lot.

As a Rotary Exchange Student, from St. George's Rotary Club, I've been doing some volunteer work on the Island, and I enjoy doing this, it is a good experience, and help is always needed. Every Monday my Club has a meeting at "The George & Dragon" Restaurant, in St. George's. I've been trying to attend every meeting, but the last couple of months my Monday nights have been occupied with basketball practice. All the meetings are very funny, and I've learnt a lot about Bermuda's history and economy with the speakers that have been going to our meetings.

I arrived in Bermuda at the end of August, 2008. The weather was great, I had some time to enjoy the summer. But now I can't wait for the heat to come back, and enjoy a little more of the summer, with more friends than before.

If being an Exchange Student is all about learning a new culture, language, meeting new people and having a good time, I've definitely been doing a good job as one.

Thank you!



## *Festival of the Arts*

We wish to invite our MSA community to join us on Thursday, April 30th (4 – 7 p.m.) as we celebrate with a fine arts festival. We are looking forward to showcasing the great musical and artistic talent we have in the school. Last year's inaugural event was a great success and we are looking for a repeat performance. Come and join us on the field under the tent!



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](mailto:lbardgett@msa.bm) or T: 441-292-4134 ext. 19



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