



# MARYKNOLLER

MARCH 2007

Newsletter for MCS Former Students' Association Members Only

Perhaps a lot of us have been wondering in the past few years, when open exam results are out, why MCS is not on the media 'billboard'. Is it because our School's academic standards have dropped? We have no answer.

As a parent of a Form 3 student of MCS, I can assure you that our School is only doing better. The Maryknoll spirit is to nurture a girl's character. Academic performance is only an inaccurate, often premature indicator of one's ability. Mr. Aloysius Lee, I think a lot of us remember him fondly as 'Da' Lee, has recently written a message, which reinforces our beliefs as Maryknollers, that we should take pride and to believe in ourselves and our School.

June Lo Class of 83

## Message from Aloysius Lee

### *Lest we Forget*



The ultimate test in education is character, as much for teachers as for students. In life the same test applies, only the penalty for failure can be much more severe. Character is an elusive thing. The absence of shortcomings alone is not sufficient proof that it exists. On the other hand, good deeds don't necessarily follow from good intentions. Academic performance may be measured with some precision. Not so human conduct. Whether a student passes or fails as a human being is perhaps an unfair question to ask, especially put so starkly and too soon. But ask it every teacher must at some point and in some form, if what they do as educators is to have any lasting value. Of course, the real challenge that lies in wait for them is whether, judged by the same standards that they set for their students, they might not be found wanting themselves.

I have been in the teaching profession long enough to be cured of all illusions about test scores being a reliable indicator of merit. Our community's obsession with them is bred by a flawed and hypocritical system, one designed by mediocrities for mediocrities, and producing many more every minute. Imperfect though it may be, however, the system rests on an ancient notion still widely entertained among the Chinese that links success in exams with social status, family honour and moral worth. This is the ghost of the Confucian tradition that must be laid before our students can once more breathe - and think - freely. Not that academic honours, as they go in Hong Kong nowadays, say much at all about their young recipients. Old girls of MCS who have wondered why they haven't yet had the satisfaction of seeing the name of their alma mater splashed across the front page of *Apple Daily* on the days the public exam results are released shouldn't ask, 'What's wrong with my beloved school?' They should ask instead, 'What have we done right that others haven't?'

A school can only be as good as its students, teachers and managers put together. Since the late 1930s our primary school buildings have been admired for their picturesque exterior. They have made doubly memorable the days spent inside them by those fortunate enough to be admitted. Such uniqueness as we possess on the outside would count for little had we not something equally unique in us to match it. What has contributed to our enduring strength is that all the parties concerned have lived up to our motto, '*Sola nobilitas virtus*' (Only virtue ennobles). For what they receive at school Maryknollers give much more in return, 'to home, to country and to the world.' If you have stood up to the tyranny of fate and of man's selfishness and ignorance, walked tall when the going was rough, held your course where lesser breeds might change theirs, and made the most of your God-given talents in the service of others, then the Maryknoll spirit is in you and may it sustain you in the many years yet to come.

*By Aloysius Lee*

# Thanksgiving Feast 25 November 2006

## Cookie Baking with Sister Jeanne in DS Room



Our Thanksgiving Feast and Gathering was held on November 25, 2006. The highlight of this event was the Cookie Baking Session in the afternoon featuring Sister Jeanne's secret recipe and demonstration. Old girls brought their kids and gathered in front of the teacher's desk at our Domestic Science Room, listening attentively to Sister Jeanne's demonstration, with the special guest assistance of Shelley Lee and Angel Wong. Kids then proceeded to their tables and started cookie rolling, cutting and decorations. All were eagerly waiting and checking at the ovens when their masterpieces were ready. The room was filled with laughter as mommies and kids were all having such a fun time. We all enjoyed the freshly baked cookies as well as the yummy brownies that Sister Jeanne specially prepared for us.



Kiddy games and a buffet dinner followed when all of us mingled and chatted. And special thanks to Ms Melaine Lee, our Principal who joined us and allowed us to 'play' in the DS Room. We really hope that we can see more of our old girls at School to share the fun and joy at our future events.

Left: Design 'Your Own Apron' Competition  
Below: Thanksgiving feast with delicious food followed by prizes on lucky draw.



# Schedule of Upcoming Events

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Primary School Building PHOTO COMPETITION

This is a year of celebration for Maryknoll as 2007 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the primary school building since commencement. It was in May 1937 that the Maryknoll Sisters and young students moved into the red brick structure, which is now a Grade III historic building, the icon for our school and a landmark on Waterloo Road.

The school is going to celebrate the anniversary through a series of activities spanning the year, including a PHOTO COMPETITION in April co-organized by Maryknoll Convent School Foundation and The Photographic Society of Hong Kong. Please refer to the attached poster and entry form at - [http://www.mcs85.org/news/MCSFSA\\_2007\\_Photo.pdf](http://www.mcs85.org/news/MCSFSA_2007_Photo.pdf)

Enrolment details: Interested parties please complete and send the entry form BEFORE MARCH 28, 2007 to The Photographic Society of Hong Kong, 21/F Wayson Commercial House, 68-70 Lockhart Road, Wanchai. Entrants may enter the School premise, by showing a copy of the completed form and HKID, to shoot at designated zones at following times.

- April 7, 2007 (Saturday) 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- April 8, 2007 (Sunday) 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- April 15, 2007 (Sunday) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Enrol By: 28<sup>th</sup> Mar 2007

## The FSA Annual General Meeting 2007

17<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Remember to mark your diary for this important event to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007! We will be announcing details of the coming AGM and sending the registration form to you soon!

## World Wide Re-Union (Cruise)

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2007

A World Wide Reunion Cruise is being organised by The Maryknoll WWR2007 Reunion Committee for Maryknollers from Maryknoll Sisters and Maryknoll Convent School. Please visit <http://www.maryknollwwr2007.org> for details of the event.

## Help the MCS Educational Trust – Join the Autopay Scheme

(Excerpted from Dr Henrietta Ip's Letter)

As you may be aware, most of the funds raised by the Educational Trust have gone towards the construction and environmental improvement projects. However, we believe the enhancement of education at MCS is equally important. This includes improving the students' language abilities, both in English and Putonghua, developing their potentials in sports, music and arts as well as upgrading the school's teaching aids.

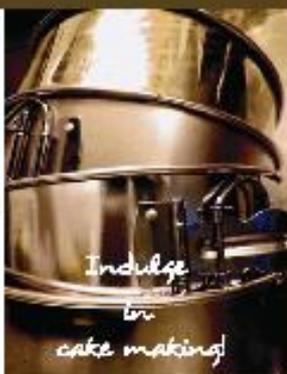
"The Autopay Scheme" has been formed with this in mind. The method is simple. Just fill in the amount you wish to contribute monthly, sign the enclosed direct debit authorization form and return it to the MCS Secondary office (Ms. Patricia Ling) by mail to **5 Ho Tung Road, Kowloon Tong**. The monthly sum will be used to cover all the recurrent expenses in the schools' educational enhancement programmes mentioned above. Receipts will be sent to you at the end of each fiscal year for tax exemption.

Even a small contribution made by you will make a difference when it is put together with all the others'. For a better education and a brighter future at Maryknoll, our Alma Mater, do extend your support to "The Autopay Scheme".

## Well Done!

A special note of thanks to Mrs Katherine Tam and Aloysia Wong (Class of '75) who have submitted the right answers to the names of the black and white photo in our Newsletter in November 2006. Well Done!

# 2ROOMS' cafe o catering o bakery o grocery



For more details, please contact us on 2838 2959 or 2893 3336.  
 Or visit our cafe at G/E, 8 Min Fat Street, Happy Valley, HK,  
 and our kitchen at G/F, 12 Min Fat Street, Happy Valley, HK.



## Become a Rep for Your Graduating Class

Being a representative for your graduating class entails keeping a most up-to-date contact list of your class and help us disseminate information on forthcoming FSA events. Once in a while, you may also be invited to attend FSA meetings. Let us add your name to the following list! Send an email to [mcsfsa.com](mailto:mcsfsa.com) or [lucykhovw@hotmail.com](mailto:lucykhovw@hotmail.com).

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