

# MSA

*Blue & White*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2012



## Principal's Message *from Sue Moench*

Once again it has been a tremendously busy few months here at MSA as you will read throughout the next few pages. Congratulations to everyone for their achievements, not only mentioned herein but overall throughout the past quarter!

As we prepare for the end of another school year and the graduation of our Class of 2012, I am grateful to those individuals and organisations that have provided their support throughout the year.

The support of our parents and alumni is absolutely critical to the ongoing success of our school. More so, the cohesion and nurturing of "that special something", which bonds the

MSA family is developed when working together and it becomes a manifestation of the phrase, "It takes a whole village to raise a child." The MSA Family is our village and our students are our children. And we need the support of more MSA villagers!

MSA has not been immune to the impact of the economic downturn. Now more than ever, we need every one of our parents and alumni to step up. Sadly, over the years there has been a decline in the support coming from both. And if it were not for the tremendous support of a relatively small group of people (given the number of parents and alumni we have), we would not be able to accomplish what we do.

So I use this letter to thank those who have chosen to be involved and to implore every single member of our MSA family to get involved in some way to ensure we can continue to provide the most well-rounded, quality education in Bermuda.

I would also like to thank every member of our Faculty, Staff & Board of Directors for their ongoing dedication to both the students of MSA and the overall institution, especially those members who were honoured with Long Service Awards at our recent MSA Staff Dinner.

I look forward to working with you all as we bring 2012 to closure and prepare to welcome back our family in September!

# Saintly Activities

## Alberta Curriculum Visit

Last month we hosted Phyllis and Dave Kornder from Alberta to work with students from Grades 6 - 12 on discerning their gifts and understanding that all are gifts from God. High school students worked with Phyllis to look at their gifts and see how they might assist them in choosing a career path. Our middle school students worked towards creating their own Dreamboard ~ who and what they dream to become in their future.



Heather Blee and Nicole Pimentel hosted at the Cabinet House by the Hon. Premier, Paula A. Cox, JP, MP and Minister of Education, the Hon. Dame Jennifer Smith, DBE, JP, Dhumi, MP.



Makai Joell participating in "Take Your Child to Work Day"

## BELCO Internship

Shane Antonition, Owen Chisnall, Dave Thomas, Ashton Dean and Dylan DeSilva (Grades 11/12) have just completed a 3-month Work Placement Program at BELCO, where they were introduced to the industry, encouraged to identify and explore a range of career paths and provided the opportunity to observe, experience and learn first-hand work values and practices. Each was assigned a mentor and spent one afternoon each week working throughout the Utility. They captured their experiences in a presentation made to company executives on March 29th, where they also had the opportunity to interact with their mentors in a more informal setting.

## UN Conference Attendance

We are very proud of Gr 11 students, Heather Blee and Nicole Pimentel, who were selected to attend the 36th Annual UNIS-UN Conference "Human Exploitation: Exposing the Unseen" on March 1 - 2, in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York. The Conference explored the hidden world of human exploitation from a global perspective, including child labor, human trafficking and the sex trade, which is often caused by poverty, conflict, and more.



(L-R) Principal, Sue Moench; Assistant Principal, Margaret DiGiacomo; Students Katrina McPhee, Cassy McPhee, Harlee Purvey, Luke Madeiros, Lauren Smyth; (back) Executive Director Red Cross, Ann Spencer-Arscott

## Elementary Agenda Art Contest

Congratulations to Braedon Cooke whose artwork won the highest number of votes and was selected as the cover for next year's Elementary School Agenda.



## Peace Club Bake Sale

Members of the Gr.5 Peace Club present a check for \$500 to Ann Spencer-Arscott of the Bermuda Red Cross that was raised during their March Bake Sale.

## First Aid/CPR Training

In an effort to ensure an even greater level of safety/security for our students, all members of our Faculty and Staff gave up an entire Saturday in March to be properly trained and certified in First Aid and CPR. We have also updated all First Aid boxes throughout the School and have identified other relevant areas for First Aid boxes to be placed. To round out our efforts in this area, we will also be providing AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training. An AED is a sophisticated, reliable, safe, computerized device that delivers electric shocks to a casualty in cardiac arrest.

## Grade 4 – Loaves & Fishes Fundraising Bake Sale

After learning about the works of mercy in Religion class our Grade 4 students asked to conduct a bake sale to benefit the Loaves & Fishes program, which is run by the local Catholic Charity, St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Valentine's Day Bake Sale, titled "Have a Heart - Feed people who are hungry", raised a whopping \$665! In addition to gaining a better understanding of how they could help hungry people within their local community, our students also learned how to successfully collaborate with their peers and to organize all aspects of this type of fundraising event from designing posters, to baking and counting the money.



*Penny Fowkes of SVDP accepts a cheque for \$665 from Jacob Pimentel.*

**On March 7th we celebrated MSA's 123rd Birthday** by taking this commemorative school-wide photograph. How blessed we are to have such a rich history steeped in the Catholic tradition that has graduated countless community and business leaders for Bermuda!

**Earth Hour Essay Winners** congratulations to the following students who were winners in the recent BELCO Earth Hour Essay Contest:

- Blair Smyth – 2nd place, 12 – 14 year category
- Cassy McPhee – Honourable Mention, 12 – 14 yr category
- Caroline Amaral – 2nd Place, 9 – 11yr age category

## Youth Summit

On March 12th, 8 students from Grades 10 and 11 participated in the Youth Parliament Youth Summit held at the House of Assembly: Kaelyn Castle, Brandon Sousa, Jashonae Smith, Amber Reid, Luis Correia, Kennedy Middleton, Hamish McNiven and Raul Carvalho. Luis, Hamish and Jashonae were members of the overall winning team, which had a political focus on Illegal Immigration within the Commonwealth. Jashonae was specifically recognized for her achievement on this team, while Raul was recognized for his participation on the religious team. Both were also recognized and received prizes as two of the top eight presenters of the day. We are extremely proud of how well they all did!

## Outstanding Teen Awards

We've always known we have outstanding teens here at MSA and now the rest of the Island has seen as well! Congratulations to Grace Edwards and Kyla Sinclair for winning their categories at the Outstanding Teen Awards in March. Grace won the Visual Arts female category and Kyla won the Community Service female category. Let us not forget ALL of MSA's nominees, including: Shane Antonition, Owen Chisnall, Chelsy Furtado, Chelsea Harvey and Michelle Medeiros. Now THAT's what we're talking about!!

## Carifta Games

To ensure our sports talent is not left out, how exciting that Rachel Fox (Gr. 11) and Antonio Bailey (Gr. 9) represented Bermuda in the Carifta Games! Well Done!

## Grade 6 SPCA Project

After having the opportunity to speak with Roma Hayward, the SPCA's Education Coordinator, the 6th Grade students chose to make Lenten sacrifices on behalf of the animals presently living at the SPCA. They collected \$571.67, which was used to buy needed supplies for the animal shelter. Well done Grade 6!





## Community Hero **LISA LISTER** (Class of '91)

Religious pioneer, John Wesley said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."

Wesley's declaration deeply resonates with Lisa, signifying the clarion call to those with a genuine passion for service and their duty to respond, which she certainly has done for her community!

Born in a Leap Year on February 29th Lisa was diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder; however, she has never let her disability hold her back. Rather, Lisa challenged her abilities by participating in activities such as ballet, horseback riding, cheerleading and more recently, scuba diving, all with a "can-do" spirit.

Lisa attended Rider University (New Jersey) where she attained a bachelor of Science Degree (Finance) and soon after, her MBA. Lisa began her career at Bank of Bermuda as a Management Trainee, which afforded her opportunities to work throughout the Bank, including its New York Office.

In 2004, she joined the Civil Service as a Management Consultant and in March 2010, was appointed Executive Officer to the Human Rights Commission. Lisa is accountable for the management and administration of the Commission and leads with a scrupulous regard for the facts and an uncompromising commitment to building a society that respects the inherent dignity of all persons; a community that is truly inclusive for all.

Lisa's not-for-profit work has been both challenging, and yet, the most rewarding, as she has sought to understand the scope, interdependency and challenges of the Third Sector while applying her business acumen and genuine interest in social issues in different capacities. She shares tremendous concern for the increased reliance on social

programs and services and is committed to using her influence to consider creative solutions that have direct measurable impacts on Bermuda's most pressing social problems.

Lisa has a solid reputation for service, leadership and as an activist for social justice. To that end, Lisa has served as a Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the Friends of the Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy. She also Chaired the Committee that produced Bermuda's National Policy on Disabilities and is a Diamond Life Member of the Bermuda Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Lisa is the proud mother of two children, Jalen, aged 11, and Mia, aged 9.

Of her time at MSA, Lisa states, "MSA provided a foundation to my life. That foundation is solid with my faith in God and an appreciation that our celebratory history is a shared experience among many tongues, cultures and countries. My time at MSA instilled in me gratitude in the democratic process and a firm understanding of the role that each citizen has in the service to one's country."

## CURRICULUM TIDBITS

Learning through problem solving helps students make sense of math. Students develop new knowledge and skills through meaningful problems.

# PUZZLER

Can you find the six words listed below? If so, complete the word-find puzzle and return it to the School Office by June 20. All correct puzzles will be placed in a draw for the chance to win 2 tickets to Little Theatre. Enjoy!

Y	T	L	A	Y	O	L	R	J	A
M	U	L	U	C	I	R	R	U	C
H	T	I	A	F	Q	K	U	D	P
F	O	U	N	D	A	T	I	O	N
Q	S	N	S	Z	N	M	K	B	S
Y	E	P	O	A	S	I	E	T	O
S	A	K	C	U	N	E	N	E	I
I	N	T	E	G	R	I	T	Y	L
Y	M	P	G	R	A	B	B	V	R
T	C	E	P	S	E	R	J	O	M

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRICULUM  
FAITH  
FOUNDATION  
HONOUR  
INTEGRITY  
LOYALTY  
RESPECT  
SAINTS

## OUR VALUES LIVED - RESPECT

Dictionary.com defines respect as “deference to a right, privilege, privileged position, or someone or something considered to have certain rights or privileges; proper acceptance or courtesy; acknowledgment”

But what does respect really look like?

An easy example would be holding the door open for the next person or looking the person you are speaking to in the eye and using appropriate body language and tone. But respect goes much deeper... At its core, it is the acceptance and acknowledgement that EVERYONE has the right to be treated with courtesy, regardless of any differences be that culture, creed, ability, etc.

The nurturing of respect in our students is a key focus of MSA and we were gratified recently to receive the following feedback that came from Dave and

Esther Thomas, parents of our High School Math teacher, Shaun Thomas, who were visiting from Grande Prairie, Alberta:

*“I just want to take some time to pass on some encouragement. My parents are here visiting Sara and I until Thursday and yesterday they dropped by the School to see where we work. They were very impressed with the attitudes and behavior of all the students (and staff) that they met as they visited the school yesterday (my Dad has worked in education for 30 years, as a teacher and administrator, and now as a substitute as he is partially retired, so he has seen a lot of students in his time). One Middle School student opened the door for them and a number of High School students politely introduced themselves and talked to my Dad. The way that all students behaved in the class and out gave my parents a good impression of our school. I hope that this makes you as proud as it does me.” ~Shaun Thomas*

**Hilary Cusack Midon** ('70) is the proud grandmother to newborn, Theodore William Huntley, born February 7, 2012 to daughter (and MSA Alum) **Lauren Midon**.



**Christopher Northrup** (2000) and wife, Rahmath, welcomed daughter, Layla Ann, into the World on January 14th, 2012. Layla is brother to Reedy, granddaughter to **Trudi** ('72) and **David Pugh**, great granddaughter to Harry and the late **Ann Lancaster** ('49). Christopher and family reside in Toronto. His email is [cjnrthr88@gmail.com](mailto:cjnrthr88@gmail.com)

The **Class of 1972** will be celebrating their 40th reunion during the weekend of June 22nd. Any class mates who wish to enjoy sharing the memories of great days at MSA, please contact Cindy (Osborne) Law at [Cynthia.Law@chartisinsurance.com](mailto:Cynthia.Law@chartisinsurance.com)

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Lauren Midon Huntley** left MSA after completing Gr. 8 in 1995 to attend High School in the US. She graduated from Georgetown University in 2003 and went on to earn a Masters Degree in Education, specializing in Risk and Prevention, from Harvard University. Lauren is a school psychologist and currently lives in Bethesda, MD with her husband Colin, along with her new baby boy, Theodore William Huntley, born February 7, 2012.

## *Faith Food for Thought* “Be Happy”

by Sister Judith Marie Rollo

In Matthew’s Gospel, chapters 5 - 7, Jesus states unequivocally what it means to be his disciple. These chapters comprise the Sermon on the Mount. It is like presenting his party platform.... “If you are my followers, my disciples, this is how you are to live”. The foundation of this teaching is found in the Beatitudes. Jesus presents to us a way of life deeper and more demanding than keeping the commandments of the Old Testament. These beatitudes are very simply stated but profound in meaning. They constitute a map to follow to help us along in our journey to be with God. They tell us what it is that Christ really cares about: the poor, the meek, the sorrowful, the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemakers, those who seek justice and those who suffer persecution. The beatitudes are promises of happiness; but how contradictory they are to the standards of

our world. We cannot help notice the apparent contradictions bound up in Our Lord’s puzzling promises: The poor are rich... those who mourn are blessed; the meek will be powerful; the hungry shall be filled; the persecuted are blessed.

What does our world suggest? We are urged to pretend to be rich or powerful. Our world wants us to play along when it assures us that we’re loved without limit or qualifications when we really are not. The smiling faces on TV seem sincerely solicitous as to whether or not we are able to clean greasy pots, polish our kitchen floors to a brilliant shine or banish all the germs from our bathrooms. Let us not be fooled. Remember that advertising agencies hire people to sell that particular pot scrubber or

## MEET THE PEEPS

A warm welcome to **Mr. Lee Williams** who joined us in January to teach Career and Life Management (CALM) and Middle School Mathematics. Bermudian Irish, Lee returned to the Island last year after completing his Teaching Degree at the University of Limerick. After substituting for MSA, he was offered a full-time position in January and has enthusiastically taken on his new role with us.



**Ms. Judy Dickie** joined our Music Department in March to support our students through the end of the year. Judy hails from Medicine Hat, Alberta where she was an Elementary Music Specialist in the public school system. She is the director of The TarTones, a men’s vocal ensemble and teaches private vocal and piano lessons when she is back home. “I feel honored to be part of MSA and am enjoying my work with the students here.”

floor wax or antibacterial cleanser. Oblivious to our personal needs, these actors regard us merely as pawns in the world of marketing; faceless consumers who can fork out the money.

The message of the beatitudes is just the opposite of all this make-believe happiness. They are not just empty promises full of pretense. They are a blueprint on how to live our lives as disciples of the Lord Jesus. And as disciples of the Lord we will truly be happy.

# LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The Faculty and Staff of MSA are an integral part of our ability to provide world-class education in a safe, nurturing environment to our young people. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following members of our team for their years of dedication to MSA and our students:



**30 Years:** Lisa Rhind - *Grade 5 Teacher*

**25 Years:** Margaret DiGiacomo - *Assistant Principal*

**15 Years:** Nelia Pimentel - *Administrative Assistant*

**10 Years:** Cristina Capelo – *Art Teacher*, Bruce Pimentel – *Facilities Manager*, Joanne Chisnall – *After School Program*

**5 Years:** Gloria Araujo – *Business Manager*, Erika Bove – *Spanish Teacher*, Dustin Ferris – *PE Teacher*, Sue Moench - *Principal*, Mary Moulder – *Grade 4 Teacher*, Lisa Stevens – *Development Director*

## HEALTHY SCHOOL INITIATIVE

After seeing a presentation by Eugene Dean of Greenrock about our use of plastic, the Grade 6 class decided to run a “Trash-free Lunch Competition” as a part of their curriculum unit on trees and forests. The competition included all of Elementary and ran from January 9-13th. Students were encouraged to bring a trash free lunch for the entire week. In a letter to parents they stated, “We want to have a trash free week because we don’t want to have plastic all over Bermuda and in the oceans. We are affecting the lives of animals when we throw away that much trash and plastic bags.” Each day the Grade 6 students monitored each class. The tally was then added up and averaged. Although it was very close, congratulations to Grade 2 who won a movie and popcorn!

# BAZAAR UPDATE

by Kim Powell - *Chair, Bazaar Committee*

Hello MSA teachers, students, family and friends. I’d like to thank all who assisted with last year’s Bazaar “Cirque du MSA”. Once again, without your help, it would not have been the success it was!! A special thank you to Ronnie Lopes and friends of “Proud to be Bermudian”, for taking the time to sing for us. What an experience – job well done!!

October will be here before we know it! Please note FRIDAY OCTOBER 19TH and SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH, 2012 for this year’s Bazaar.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our 2012 Committee, including a few new faces: Jennifer Mahoney, Co-Chair; Ximena Marshall, Secretary; Bernadette Bridges, Treasurer; Krystle DeSilva working the Shiftboard program; Lisa Stevens, Advertising; and Renee Brady, Pauline DeSilva and Sarah Cabral as Committee Members. We have also introduced a new Purchasing Agent position, to be undertaken by Janita Makhlof.

We are always in need of Managers and Co-Managers to run games and stalls. If you are up for the challenge, please call

me. Not only will you enjoy the preparations for the Bazaar, you will also meet many wonderful people! We need all fathers, uncles, brothers and anyone with construction knowledge/ experience to assist with bazaar construction. This includes setting up and tearing down stalls. As the saying goes, “many hands make light work”. If you can help, please call 236-6870 or email: [razzledazzle@northrock.bm](mailto:razzledazzle@northrock.bm).

Thank-you you in advance for your continued support of the biggest fundraiser for MSA!!!



## Did you know?

Doctor William Masters was the first boy to enter the High School Division of Mount Saint Agnes. In an interview with Doctor Masters in "Doctors' Tales" by Robin Muir Lang, he shared some interesting comments about MSA. When asked about his early education, Doctor Masters stated that he attended MSA because his mother did. She was the third graduate of the Academy. About his early memories of the School, he replied: "Well, we were taught by nuns at Mount Saint Agnes. They were all nuns at that time and I passed quickly right through the School. I did very well there." When asked if he were caned by the nuns, he replied: "No, no. Well, I never got a caning. One thing that the nuns concentrated on was good behavior and you were given marks for good behavior. And politeness. (sic) For instance if you met a lady, you let the lady pass through first and all that sort of thing. Those were the kinds of things that were taught at Mount Saint Agnes."

## CURRICULUM TIDBITS

Students best develop conceptual mathematical understanding when they have opportunities to "do" math... to engage in hands-on experiences in which they explore concepts using a variety of tools and strategies rich in mathematical context.



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