Message from Supervisor

Dear Members of the PTA,

This is the seventh year of the PTA. What would I wish for? What do I hope for? What do I believe we can achieve? As parents and teachers we have to work constantly to improve the school. Improvement for the individual and improvement of the school needs heart and head activity. First, we need to encourage the students to have the right attitude to learning. An attitude that delights in searching beyond the immediate lesson is an absolute necessity. Reading and reading and reading more in Chinese and English cannot be emphasized enough because the 3 + 3 curriculum depends on a wide base of knowledge that can be analyzed and presented in essay form. Right answers may achieve a pass but will not serve the student in her future career and life. Another attitude is the recognition that all students in the classroom must be achieving. Independent, me alone philosophy will not work in the 21st century. Team work is essential for success.

A story will emphasize what I mean. A raven liked sitting in a tree and gazing out. One day a hunter came by and spread lots and lots of seeds on the ground. He then set snares to capture any bird that would eat the seeds. The hunter then went off to hide. After the hunter left, a flock of pigeons came flying by and saw the seeds. The raven cried out to them not to eat the seeds. The seeds were too tempting and they ate and were trapped. They cried out, “We’re sorry, you were right. Can you help free us?” The raven told them that they would have to do exactly what he said. First, stop squawking (this was hard because the hunter was coming close). Secondly, do exactly what I tell you. At the count of three, all of you pigeons must rise together. Then, when you lift the net, follow me. I will take you to a field near where I have some friends, the mice, and they will chew the net and you will be free.” The pigeons settled down and the raven counted one, two, three and the pigeons rose into the air. They followed the raven and dropped down into the field. The mice appeared and chewed the net, setting the pigeons free.

There are many lessons from the story that apply to school. First, we need to listen and obey to succeed in life. The raven is the wisdom figure. Secondly, we need to work as a team, leaving no one out. Finally, the one we least expect, the mouse, has a significant part in our lives.

Sr Jeanne Houlahan
H1N1: Happy ones, Naughty ones

The H1N1 virus has swept across Hong Kong and many countries in the world. At MCS, happy and naughty students are in every corner of the school campus. Mind you, happiness and naughtiness are not mutually exclusive.

Students are a source of immense joy to us. They give teachers a great sense of satisfaction, with the surprises they spring on us with their thoughtfulness alongside the privilege of witnessing how they grow right before our eyes. At times, we think that they grow up far too fast. However, there are times when we cannot wait to see them mature and get serious about their goals in life.

The other side of the coin is, of course, that they can also be quite a headache. Teenagers will be teenagers; they have unlimited amounts of energy and passion for the things they are interested in. Many a time, these may not be the same things adults approve of.

Taking up challenges and rising above them helps them grow and learn. However, adults have to remind them that there are certain things they need not try and should never try. Conflicts arise when adults and teenagers try to convince one another where such boundaries lie.

Love conquers all. Dear parents and teachers, our children will know we love them if we are tolerant, even when this seems impossible. Dear children, learn to see through the nagging and the reprimanding. Parents and teachers do that not out of habit nor because they want to be unpopular; they are simply trying to show their love in the best way they know how.

H1N1病毒橫掃香港及全球各国。在瑪利諾，快樂的、淘氣的學生佈滿校園每個角落，要記得：快樂及淘氣並不是互不相容的。

學生是我們快樂的泉源。我們經驗到他們突如其來的細心，尤其在他們長大成人，這給予我們莫大的滿足。有時，我們覺得他們實在成長得太快，但有時卻也恨不得他們能夠快些成熟，能認真地尋找自己的人生目標。

另一方面，學生也是我們頭痛的根源。年輕人是年輕人，他們有無限的精力及熱情——不過，只限於他們愛做的事情上。很多時，這些事情並非成年人所認同的。

接受並努力克服挑戰，讓人成長並可促進學習。不過，成年人就必須提醒他們那些事情不是不必要做的。成年人與年輕人都嘗試說服對方怎樣定立界線；衝突就此展開。

愛能戰勝一切。親愛的家長及老師們，我們有時在看似不可能的情況下也作出忍受；孩子們將來定會知道這些能耐是源自我們的愛，親愛的孩子們，學習去穿「唔好」及「唔好」的背後；父母及師長這樣做並非習慣如此，又或為了使自己不受歡迎，他們只是嘗試用自己所做對的最好方法去愛。

Melaine Lee

It does not seem so very long ago that I wrote the Chairperson’s message in the last issue of the PTA newsletter. Looking back, it has been a very challenging and also rewarding year for me as the first ‘Daddy’ PTA Chairman. I have really enjoyed working with a small group of 12 very devoted, diligent and delightful people comprising working mums, teachers and the principal.

Together we have organised a great many exciting events for the students and parent members. An enthusiastic group of parents cheered at the Athletics Meet and the Swimming Gala. Mums and daughters worked together to produce delicious home-made pizzas and desserts in the cookery classes. Parents, students and teachers spent a lovely sunny day at the Peak on the day of the Walkathon. The girls shared their views at the Reading Club gatherings and had a wonderful time at the Reading Hunt, a joint-school event with La Salle College PTA. They also put their hearts into making handmade arts to thank their mothers on Mother’s Day. And on Thanksgiving Day last year, the PTA gave the teaching staff and the janitors a picture frame with quotes from the Bible as a small token of paren’s appreciation.

The PTA wishes to thank the parent Executive Committee members and helpers who have helped out in the library and come to school early in the morning to take students’ temperatures before class. Parents provided fruit on Fruit Day to encourage students and teaching staff to eat more fruit as part of a healthy diet. Parents also spent quiet moments sharing what they had learnt from the Bible in the Religious Group.

In the coming academic year, our Annual General Meeting will be held on 31 October. We have also invited Mrs. Rita Fan (老餘麗泰女士) to come on the evening of 17 November to share with us her experiences in her roles as politician, wife and mother.

For the coming year, which marks Maryknoll Convent School’s 85th Anniversary, I wish the MCS PTA every success.
宗教小組

宗教小組除每月舉辦外，還不定期邀請嘉賓出席講座。如邀請「俊傑同行協會會長」梁錦先生分享「婚姻是怎樣的一回事」，讓我們有機會分享婚姻真諦及生活點滴。

由學校於四月期間主辦的「宗教週」活動，以問答形式鼓勵同學多認識天主聖言。本會家長亦以善點作爲攜伴，鼓勵同學參與活動，有云：「民以食為天」，美食當前，確實令人開懷。

PTA Ann Lo

我参加了宗教小組五年，認識了不少知己朋友，這個大家庭給予我無數支持和鼓勵。以下是一段小小的分享：

我去藥房的診所做例行體驗，體驗結果確定：我病了。
耶穌檢查我的血液時，他發現我在「溫和親切」方面，血壓很低。
量體溫時，發現體溫顯示的是於處40℃。
心電圖顯示，我需要進行「愛的流術」。
因我的血液被「惡意」阻塞，無法提供血液給虛弱的心臟。
嫉妒使我跌倒而帶折，無法與弟兄姊妹並肩而行，無法擁抱我的朋友。
因此，我進行外科整型術。

祂也發現我失視了，因為我的視力無法超越弟兄姊妹們的缺點。
當我抱怨聽不清楚時，診斷顯示我已不再聽聽耶穌每天對我說的話。
對這一切，耶穌給我免費的診療。
由於祂的仁慈，我保證在我離開診所後，
只採用祂為我之作之言所給的自然療法的處方。
每天早上，飲用一杯「感恩」。
工作時，吃一碗湯的「沉靜」。
每個小時，喝一杯「耐心」，一杯「四海之內皆兄弟的信念」以及一杯「謙遜」。
回家時，服一杯「愛」剝。
睡覺前，服用「慈祥良心」兩粒。
耶稣知道我們的困難。
耶稣完全知道此時此刻，所有難地許可，而發生在我們身上的一切。
藉由我們所過的生活，以及目前所處的環境，耶稣要告訴我們，只有自己才能理解。

顧天父給我們：
易風雨後，有彩虹。
洪水後，有歡笑。
煩悶後，有詩詞。
試煉中，有祝福。
面對生命的問題時，有能真誠分享的朋友。

PTA Candy Ng
Cookery Class

It is a great pleasure to be invited to share my feelings regarding the cookery class organized by the MCS Parent-Teacher Association on 24th March, 2009. As a new member of the Secondary Section, I found everything rather unfamiliar and so felt grateful to the PTA for organizing this kind of "parent-child activity", which promotes parental involvement in the school.

When we first heard about the "cookery class" during the first parents' meeting, both my daughter and I were eager to take the opportunity to join in because both of us like cooking. We were quite amazed that we were able to successfully make a pizza with only simple ingredients. All praise goes to the parent instructor for her well thought out ideas!

I spent a wonderful time with my daughter and I would like to thank the School and the PTA for providing such a valuable sharing experience.

Walsabella Lam
Parent of Wynetta Lee (1D)

Daisy Chan
Parent of Jenna Ng (1A)

This year is my first year to participate in "Fruit Day" activities. This activity is to encourage students to eat fruits and vegetables. The fruits are fresh and healthy. Eating fruits and vegetables is beneficial to our health.
今年母親節的《DIY自製手工藝》活動分別於5月5、7及8日在瑪利諾修院學校校園內舉行。一如以往，參加的學生非常踴躍，氣氛熱烈。參與活動的同學們臉上都充滿著愉快的笑容，並且聚精會神地學習製作小小的手工藝品及可愛有趣的玻璃小飛蟲，目的是把那些自製小禮物送贈摯愛的母親以表心意。

在此，我衷心感謝多名義工家長的協助，能使是次富有意義的活動得以順利完成，特別感謝中二丁班家長及太太的協助。此外，我也很高興看到校本同學那份來自內心的摯愛母親。我希望明年的DIY活動，能夠繼續得到家長及同學們的熱烈支持。

PTA Louisa Wong
Official launch of MCS Foundation Heritage Book

I was very happy to attend the Maryknoll Convent School book launch at the Kelly and Walsh Bookshop on 23rd April, 2009.

This was a happy occasion marking the launching of a publication to commemorate the declaration of the Maryknoll Convent School Primary School and convent building as a Historic Monument: Forever be True – the Love & Heritage of Maryknoll – a heritage book published by the Maryknoll Convent School Foundation. The MCS Foundation spent more than a year compiling this book which contains a host of Maryknollers’ happy memories alongside an inspiring range of photos which include rare archive materials and breathtaking images of the School, all these serving as a reminder that Maryknoll Convent School, with its European-styled red tiles and lush green surroundings, has always been a famous landmark in Kowloon Tong.

The book traces the history of MCS. What began with 12 students in 1925 at the convent parlor on Austin Road has become today’s Maryknoll Convent School in Kowloon Tong, which has been a haven of learning for countless girls, many of whom have blossomed into prime movers in Hong Kong.

Present at the ceremony were many MCS old girls who had come to support this school event and it was a great pleasure to share in their joy over this book, a timeless volume to be treasured by all Maryknollers.

PTA Vivian Lai

Michelle Ng - Parent of Colette Ng (2E)
Voluntary Parent Librarian Service

What a good opportunity it has been for me to be a voluntary school librarian!

This was a totally new experience for me, which was why I accepted with some reservation. At the outset, I really had no idea what to do apart from helping students to borrow books. Gradually, I realized that there were all sorts of other tasks involved. The most enriching of these was tracing all the steps from the ‘birth’ of new books at the publishers’ to their arrival on the library book shelves. I also learned a great deal about, amongst other things, book cataloguing, computer record updating and book packing.

The overall impression I have gained during this period of voluntary service is that the school has deployed considerable financial and other resources to run and support library services to the fullest extent possible.

It has been a very great pleasure for me to be one of the helpers and I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Katherine Tan for her guidance in this interesting assignment.

Cindy Chan – Parent of a F.2 Student

Dear Reading Club members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and parents who participated in the club’s programme, contributing actively to its events. Your support has been a key factor in the Reading Club’s overall success. I offer my heartfelt thanks to those parents and students who spent endless amounts of time attending the preparation meetings and serving as helpers in the joint-school events, as well as to Christine, Louisa, Miki, Peggy and Vivian, who arranged the delicious food for the party at our last meeting.

I do hope you have a great summer holiday and continue to enjoy reading.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again next year.

Warmest regards,

PTA Belinda Choi

(Parent of a F.4 student)

2008-2009 Reading Club co-ordinator
The highlight of this year’s programme was, for me, the Joint-school MCS and LSC Reading Club programme held at La Salle College on 25 April, an event of impressive depth and range.

The opening guest speaker was Professor Lai Tai Lek of the University of Hong Kong, who shared with us his views on a range of unusual topics: the merits of classical versus simplified Chinese characters, nudity in art for children and stories behind inventions, this last including the success story of the world’s first 2-in-1 shampoo, invented by Kao of Japan, which was initially discredited by experts, yet soon became the most successful commercial invention of its time.

After the talk, students and parent helpers from the two schools were divided into 14 groups of around 12. Students took turns to share their book reports within the group.
nominated representative from each group then gave a presentation to the audience with prizes going to the three most outstanding book reports of the day.

In my group, I could not help but marvel at the sheer range of topics, which included "Social Atoms" – a critical analysis of follower behaviour in a social environment; "Mussolini’s Shadow" – dealing with a disciple's conflict with and eventual liberation from this fascist movement; and "Art Appreciation" – on some of the world's great artists. The boys explained that some of these were recommendations of their mentor, a most admired Chinese teacher.

After the plenary session, the parent helpers were invited to stay behind for a short de-briefing focusing on suggestions for possible future improvements to the event. Here, the energy and vibrant interaction amongst parents rivalled that of the young folks.

Finally, those of us who could stay a bit longer were invited to a session of short presentations by three parent helpers on parenting and family life, followed by book report sharing by parents.

It was a fruitful day and definitely an eye-opening experience for me with its precious opportunities to share with and learn from fellow parents, all equally engaged in a common mission: the successful nurturing of our younger generation.

Rebecca Chan – Parent of Janelle Chang (1A)
I joined the Reading Club in Form One. At first I joined because my parents wanted me to, but after the first meeting, I saw things differently. I still remember the first evening meeting I attended, which was about Enneagram, the nine types of personality. It was very memorable because it linked up with two things I am greatly interested in – psychology and reading. I found out that reading is not just limited to fiction. It is a part of everyday life too.

Then came the Joint School Reading Hunt with LSC, which was fun. The Reading Hunt not only challenged our brains but also our bodies, since we had to carry out tasks like shooting basketballs. We also had to use our map-reading skills to locate each checkpoint. This told me that reading is far more than just sitting on a chair and chewing coffee. Reading can take you to a point where it’s all about your general knowledge and your body.

My first presentation was probably the most important Reading Club experience. I have always suffered from stage fright. I don’t know why; perhaps it is the cold, hard glare from the audience or their endless silence. Whatever the reason, it didn’t have any effect that day. I overcame my stage fright and thoroughly enjoyed my presentation.

The Reading Club has not only helped me to overcome my stage fright; it has also helped me to look at reading in a whole new way, I am truly glad that my parents sent me to the Reading Club.

Dear Reading Club members,

During the meetings of the Reading Club, I have made a lot of new friends and learnt a great deal. My favorite part is sharing ideas and views on the books we are reading. I have read quite a number of good books, some of these published recently, and I have enjoyed the variety of topics. I have also learnt to be confident when telling others about my book. My communication skills have improved a lot. I am really glad that I joined the Reading Club.

Feelings on the LSC + MCS Joint-Reading Club function

It was a really great experience going to La Salle College and learning more about the books read by others. Girls very often like different books from boys so this was for me a good ‘learning’ activity since I heard about books which girls usually don’t read. It was a good idea to exchange feelings on different books.

Feelings on MCS PTA Reading Club

Reading is much more fun than I imagined! Different kinds of reading, how to choose a book, how, what and when to read… I learnt how to plan my reading well. The experience of making a book presentation has made me feel brave and confident about speaking to an audience. It was great practice for me and has helped me to grow.

There was a special gathering with La Salle Reading Club in February and April. However, I had to leave at ten thirty. Before the group discussion, there was a talk given by Professor Lui Tai Lok who shared with us the history of toys. He talked about people buying dolls like Barbie and making them new clothes and changing their heads. He thinks it is not something disgusting or childish. It is Art. I enjoyed the meeting of the Reading Club at La Salle College. It was an unforgettable experience. I regret that I had to leave early. It would have been fun to stay longer.
I think the Reading Club was quite fun, but it could be a bit boring at times. I have learnt more about different kinds of books and authors. We don't have to read just one type of book all the time. We have learnt about other kinds of books through students' presentations. I enjoyed the games and the special activities, particularly the activities at the Joint School Reading Club gathering, which were really entertaining and fun. I think the Joint School Reading Hunt was a great success. We learnt about the history of La Salle College and made friends with some of the students there, which helped us improve the way we communicate. I hope this activity will continue next year because it was a really memorable and interesting experience.

1C Jade Wong

Reading Club

This year, I enjoyed the Reading Club activities. I learned some reading skills and some ways to make reading part of a routine. What I liked most of all was the talk by a psychologist, who is a former Maryknoller. She talked about how we can maintain our reading habit, which I think is really useful. I agree with her suggestion that you should give yourself rewards immediately after you have completed each day's work plan, or give yourself immediate punishment if you don't.

2E Serene Ho

Miki Chin – parent of Jessica Chin (1A)
二零零八至二零零九年度活動總結

學生及家長活動

二零零八年八月至二零零九年度

家長活動

二零零八年十一月一日

第七屆週年會員大會
二零零八年十一月十七日

家校聯席會
二零零八年十一月二十八日

家長出外考察

二零零八年十二月二十九日

參加學生會升旗典禮
二零零九年三月

宗教信仰分享（每月一次）
二零零九年三月二十二日

宗教信仰分享（每月一次）
二零零九年三月二十二日

圖書館講座
二零零九年四月

家長義工課程
二零零九年五月

家長義工服務
二零零九年七月

二零零九年七月

家長義工為學生送夏天體溫

其他活動

二零零九年三月及七月

出版家長教師會通訊
二零零九年九月及十月

售賣紀念品
二零零九年九月及十月

贊助學生活動

曾經

有家長問我為甚麼要加入「家教會」成為幹事，想一個義工家長不也一樣有貢獻嗎？當然同意義工家長有其重要性，沒有他們的付出和努力，我們真的辦事不成呢！但成為家教會幹事後，我多了一份自主的動力，過去校方一直傳達『家教會』足夠的愛護和超過無限大的自主空間。在執行會務時，我們會治療過去的經驗依然相處，從創意工作的我，喜愛不停的「腦盜夢」，在細微處檢討和革新，也無法想像這是創作的魅力之一。也希望我們能達到『家教會』是學校、家長和學生的橋樑。在統計及會務，多謝校方及PTA主席的充分信心，更多謝我們的團隊及一系列家教會，同學的慷慨捐款，讓這兩期的會訊更見富益充實。

Clare Leung
PTA Ann Leung

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