

# SMCS Newsletter A Newsletter for the Families of St Michael's Choir School



Our Mission:

St. Michael's Choir School is a Catholic Community whose primary mission is the education of young Christian gentlemen. At the centre of the community's academic effort to make the universe intelligible to growing minds is an experience of music for the praise of God in

St. Michael's Choir School
67 Bond Street
Toronto, On M5B 1X2
Telephone: (416) 393-5518
Fax: (416) 393-5880
barry.white@tcdsb.org

Jesus Christ

# Principal's Message— Mr. B. White



In May, spring weather finally arrived and so the boys were glad to be able to switch over to the summer uniform. It was a month of continued catch-up with curriculum after the Italy tour, piano exams, as well as preparing for our big Spring Concert at St Paul's Basilica. May was also a month of success for several of our school teams in the pool, in track and field, on the soccer pitch and at the Ultimate tournaments. We had a cres-

cendo finish to the month (literally) with our 10<sup>th</sup> annual ever-popular Jam Night.

This month, as we race to the finish line, we look forward to welcoming our incoming students and their families at the 10:00 am Welcome Mass on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

On the 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be another showcasing of student talent at our Festival of the Arts.

As we all know and appreciate, the boys of our school are gifted, talented students who work hard throughout the year. Our year-end ceremonies are a time to look back and recognize the many achievements, not only of our graduating students, but of the entire student body. We look forward to seeing all of you at our closing ceremony mass on Friday June 21 when, as an entire school community, we'll celebrate and give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon our school during this year and throughout the first 75 years of the Choir School's existence.



#### **CHORAL NEWS**

### Director's Message—Mr. S. Handrigan





It is hard to believe that the month of June is upon us! After 30 years in education I am always surprized at how fast the school year seems to fly by, and this year has been no exception.

Over the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to catch my breath and reflect on all of the wonderful milestones of this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Just the other day I received our media report from our publicist Victoria Lord, and if you were sensing that we had lots of media coverage over the past year, you were right. For example, the media frenzy around our Italy Tour included 15 television spots, 16 newspaper articles, 8 radio reports and 22 on-line articles. In case you missed any of this coverage, the links to all of these are posted on our website. The media coverage we received over these past months has boosted St. Michael's Choir School's public and media profile and instilled a sense of pride felt by many Canadians in St. Michael's Choir School's achievements that will have a lingering effect. This sentiment was echoed recently by Toronto Life Magazine who cited St. Michael's Choir School's performance for

Pope Francis as recent occasion that offered citizens a reason to be proud of Toronto.

Our Spring Concert at St. Paul's Basilica on May 24<sup>th</sup> was a resounding success. We were very fortunate to sing in one of the most beautiful and acoustically magnificent churches in Toronto. I would like to thank Monsignor Brad Massman for hosting us and I would also like to extent a heartfelt thank you to the entire faculty and the parent volunteers who ensured that our boys were safe and well supervised. I would also like to thank everyone for their generosity. The free will collection yielded just over \$3,200.00.Much appreciated!

Our Tenor/Bass Choir under the direction of Ms. Teri Dunn recently entered the 2013 National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs. This year, there were 45 entries in 11 categories, representing choirs from coast-to-coast. A jury of esteemed Canadian choral conductors recently met to review the Competition entries and select Finalists. I am pleased to let you know that the St. Michael's Choir School Tenor/Bass Choir has been selected as a Finalist in Category 3 – Lower Voice Youth Choirs! I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the choir and Ms. Dunn on this fantastic achievement. The winners of this competition will be announced at Festival 500 Sharing the Voices, an international festival of choral music which runs from July 3-10 in St. John's NF. As fate would have it, I will be attending this festival and I will be in attendance at the awards ceremony where the winners will be announced. Links to all of the performances are on the school website.

This past weekend I had the opportunity to attend a concert at St. Gabriel's Parish given by the Seraphim Choir, a choir made up of St. Michael's Alumni, under the direction of Richard Foty. The purpose of the concert was to raise funds for the Andrew Bezjak Memorial Scholarship awarded annually to the SMCS Valedictorian. Andrew Bezjak who attended SMCS from Grade 3 onwards, died tragically of a heart attack caused by an undetected abnormality on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 in his Grade 12 year. The concert was very well attended and Andrew's brothers sang in the choir and his mother addressed the audience. The concert was a very touching tribute to Andrew and the generosity of the people in attendance will ensure that this scholarship can be awarded for years to come. Monsignor Ronan would have been very proud of these alumni as they continued to fulfill his vision of serving others through music. I would like to thank all of the alumni who were involved in this worthy fundraising effort.

Over the next few weeks I would encourage all of the students to remain focussed and attentive to their choral duties and studies. Summer vacation is just around the corner but remember we are not quite there just yet!

I look forward to seeing you all at our Graduation ceremonies on June 21st.

With warm regards,

Stephen Handrigan

# SPRING CONCERT - ST. PAUL'S BASILICA MAY 24, 2013















# **ATHLETICS**

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHOIR SCHOOL SWIM TEAM





SMCS Spartan Swim Team won the Omni Cup for the most points awarded to a medium size school at the Toronto Catholic Swim Meet on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Etobicoke Olympium! Congratulations to the entire team!

Heats were run on Saturday. Top 16 in individual events and top 8 in relays advanced to the finals on Sunday! We had many swimmers advance! Overall our swimmers brought home 7 individual medals and 5 medals in relay events!

Benjamin Norton, grade 3 won gold in backstroke and bronze in freestyle. Alexander Schwab won silver in breast stroke and bronze

in butterfly. Vincent Bonus won gold in free, silver in back and silver in breast stroke. Great job boys!

Grade three freestyle team swimmers placed third and were Benjamin Norton, Jonathan Adams, Christopher Chong and Rossvan Rafinan.

Grade four freestyle team swimmers placed third and theywere Owen Phillipson, Taras Rawlinson, Ethan Kwon, and Aidan Young.

Grade five boys freestyle team placed second and swimmers were Alex Rojik, Alexander Schwab, Martin Licht and David Piazza.

Grade four medley relay placed second with Owen Phillipson, Aidan Young, Christopher Chong and Taras Rawlinson.

Grade five medley relay also placed second with had Liam Wright, Alexander Schwab, Alex Rojik and Martin Licht.

All the coaches are very proud of how the boys swam this weekend. A super way to finish off the season!



# **ATHLETICS**



# **SOCCER TOURNAMENT**



On Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 the **SMCS Intermediate Soccer Team** played three games at Riverdale Park and reclaimed the TCDSB South Divisional Pennant.

The whole team played skillfully all throughout, this being demonstrated especially by a brilliant two goals, headers from set up corner kicks in the final match of the day.

Special thanks go to Assistant Coach Mr. A. Amato, for all his guidance and effort this season, also to Mr. L. Woloszczak for his help as well. Many sincere thanks to all parents who were able to see the team play, cheering us on with their encouragement and support.

Our great goal keeper, Benedikt Licht was the 1<sup>st</sup> Captain, Adam Ierullo-Woloszczak, 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain and Robert Amato, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Captain for the games.

While the Soccer season may have been short here at St. Michael's Choir School there were many spectacular, memorable goals, plays and moments that we can continue to hold on to in return.

Congratulations Everyone!

Viva!

Mr. Rodrigues



# Grade 8 Confirmation—Sunday, May 19, 2013 at St. Michael's Cathedral





Grade 8 Celebration on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 In the Library



**CHOIR SCHOOL NEWS** 

# MR. COLLINS GRADE 3 CLASS MOTHER'S DAY TEA - FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013



# THE TITANIC TEA PARTY



What a party! There was lots of talking and clapping. Mothers were invited to the "Ist Class Dining Room" from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Collins was the 'captain' while we the students were the 'stewards'. There were sandwiches, vegetables, and fruit for the moms to eat. Mr. Collins served tea to the moms along with whipped cream and jam. The tea was served in Prince Albert Tea cups and saucers. The parents had no idea what was happening but we suddenly sang 'On this Day O Beautiful Mother'. It refers to our mothers and the Virgin Mary.

"It was so amazing!" said Benjamin's mother after the song. "It's an honour to be served like this. The cups are fancy, the tea is delicious and it has my favourite food!" said Samuel's mother.

Later, Mr. White our principal, came to visit us. He said it was a good time to respect, listen and love our mothers. Aaron, our classmate, played the last song that the band played on the Titanic as it sank called Finally, when our "captain" rang the bell, the party was over.

I had fun being at the party. After all, it's a once in a life time opportunity.

By: Mark Li Grade 3 Student





We are very grateful to the Eco Club and Ms. Presotto for making our entrance to 66 Bond St. more colourful. Even the rain could not stop them from planting the beautiful flowers. A HUGE thank you to Ms. Presotto for taking the time to organize this. We look forward to the future projects of the Eco Club in making our school more beautiful and much more green!

#### Ms. G. Tarantino



# SOCIAL JUSTICE



On May 16, the Social Justice team organized a fundraising bake sale in support of ShareLife. The event was well received and the team was flooded with students wanting to enjoy a taste of all the different desserts. Including some generous monetary donations, your participation helped us raise almost \$300 that will be donated to ShareLife. ShareLife agencies help over 250,000 people in the Archdiocese of Toronto, providing service in family services, immigration, international development, children and youth, and clergy. Thank you again for your support!

In June, the Social Justice Team will be hosting the BAGS (**Be A** Giving **S**ource) campaign to help the Our Place Youth Centre/Residential Centre in Peel, which is an organization that helps over 550 youth each year. They have an emergency shelter in which youth stay for an average of three weeks while trained staff help them develop and achieve realistic goals and facilitate family reconciliation, if needed.

Similar to the Shoebox campaign, the Student BAGS contain items such as stationery, washcloths, and a bottle of water. These BAGS are then donated to help support the shelter. A specific list of items will be made available to each homeroom class. The Social Justice team will be collecting the items until Friday, June 14. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Adam Gauran and Aloysius Wong Grade 8

#### CHAPLAINCY AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP





May has been an exciting month for the Choir School community. We began with the celebration of Catholic Education week in which we took the opportunity to appreciate the fact that we have publicly-funded Catholic Education in Ontario.

This month has also been a busy one for the religion classes. On May 14 the grade 9 Religion class visited the Good Shepherd Refuge where they made over 60 beds and helped with food preparation. The Good Shepherd visit also provided an opportunity for students to learn about the programs provided for Toronto's less fortunate and to reflect upon the challenging call of Christ to love the least of our brothers and sisters.

The school was also blessed with a visit from our school's chancellor, and Archbishop of Toronto, Cardinal Collins. Cardinal Collins joined staff for breakfast before school on May 28 and then spoke to some of the high school students about the *Book of Revelations*. Particularly, Cardinal Collins drew attention to the three ways that Revelations teaches us how we encounter Christ: through the Eucharist, in our individual deaths when we come face-to-face with Christ, and when Christ returns for all people at the end of time. Cardinal Collins also spoke of the importance of understanding the symbolism of Revelations properly and not interpreting it to fit current agendas (Eisegesis), but rather, to understand what the symbolism meant within its original context (Exegesis).

As we prepare for the final stretch of school, let us invoke the name of Thomas Aquinas, Patron Saint of students, and ask his help for all students finishing course work and preparing for final tests and exams. May all receive the endurance and strength needed to complete this year with success.

In Christ,

Andrew Hume Chaplain, St. Michael's Choir School





# SM¢CS MERCHANDISE

Shop online at:

smcs.entripy.com

Quantities are limited. Available only while supplies last

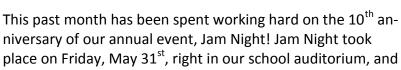
# STUDENT VOICE



# Student Council Report—May 2013



With the last full official month of school behind us, and our most anticipated event of the year successfully completed, it's now safe to say that all of us on the Student Council this year are finally on home stretch!





all the hard work and preparation by not only the student council members,

but also our multi-talented student performers definitely paid off as the show was a great success! It was an amazing sight to see an almost sold-out show, with attendees coming from all across the city for our event. The night was filled with great entertainment, and complemented with free drinks, and - new this year - free ice cream and slushies for all! We also stepped it up this year in terms of our exciting raffle, as we raffled off a wide variety of prizes, with our top prize being a 16GB iPad 2! At the end of the day, it was a great feeling to know that some of the proceeds from this event, as well as the sale of our extra raffle tickets went to our school board's main charity, the Angel Foundation for Learning, supporting students in the TCDSB to succeed!

The Student Council would like to specifically thank all the students and performers for being the stars of the show and making this event possible, as well as the teachers who came out to support student leadership in our school through helping supervise our event. Special mention goes out to Mr. Woodger & Mr. Rodrigues for their hard work and support throughout the past month for putting all the tech and equipment together to make the show sound as good as it did!

Earlier in May, we held our Student Council elections for the 2013-2014 school year! All 18 candidates

for the 7 positions on Student Council gave intriguing and powerful speeches to our student body, and the following day, students voted for the best candidate! I personally congratulate all students who ran in the election, as I know it is not an easy task, and I wish our newly elected Student Council the best of luck next year as we soon approach the time to pass the torch from one Student Council to the next.



Patrick Parro

# JAM NIGHT FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2013



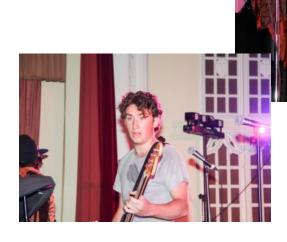












# French Café



As part of the Grade 4 FSL unit on snacks, the class participated in a French Café held in the school cafeteria on Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

Our first annual French Café was a success with 31 different samples of food some of which were influenced from different ethnicities around the world.



This complemented the entire experience as we embrace the aspect of multiculturalism.

Each student brought in a snack that was originally created and set up their station with their poster describing in French the ingredients and instructions as well as a picture of their snack.

The Grade 3 class was also invited to come and sample the different foods and to see what they will be looking forward to next year as they participate in the French Café.

Everyone involved enjoyed themselves and it was a wonderful and educational experience for our students as they learn about healthy eating, diversity and respect towards the sensitivity of food allergies.

Mr. Tarascio











# ThinkFirst Injury Prevention Strategy for Youth (TIPSY) Program



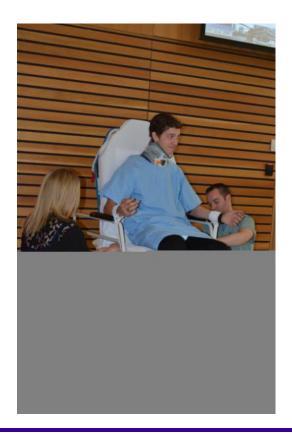
On Friday, May 31st, a small but mighty contingent from the SMCS high school community attended the ThinkFirst Injury Prevention Strategy for Youth (TIPSY) Program at St. Michael's Hospital. TIPSY is a half day injury prevention program offered throughout the academic year to high school students (grades 11 & 12) in the Greater Toronto Area. TIPSY helps youth understand how driver inexperience, lack of restraint use, and drinking/drugging while driving can result in tragedy on the roadways. Classroom sessions were enhanced with a tour of the Trauma/Neurosurgery Intensive Care Unit and a demonstration of resuscitation equipment used in the trauma bay. In addition, the group heard a gentleman who had sustained a brain injury speak about life before, during and after his hospitalization and rehabilitation.

A few interesting facts gleaned over the course of the day:

- St. Michael's Hospital treats approximately 600 trauma patients each year.
- Over half of St. Michael's trauma patients each year are between the ages of 15 19
  years of age.
- Males represent the majority (over 70%) of trauma patients.
- Motor vehicle crashes and falls are the predominant mechanism of injury for over
   70% of our trauma patients annually.
- The majority of trauma patients arrive at the hospital between the hours of 6 pm 6 am.

We would like to thank Ms. Bishop for her help with coordinating this event and look forward to seeing how our participation in this program will evolve in the years to come!

Mr. N. Kovacs



# MONTHLY RECOGNITION





# **CHORAL AWARD:**

Front Row: Joshua Ding, Augustin Chuachiaco,

Back Row: Rossvan Rafinan, Ethan Kwon, David Leong, Carlo Fernando, Benjamin Puskas



### **FRANCAIS AWARD:**

Front Row: Luca Margani, Michael Adragna,

Morgan Cheng

Back Row: Takeshi Tanikawa. Stefan Vercillo,

Adam Ierullo-Woloszczak



### **VIRTUE AWARD: COMPASSION**

Front Row: Rhys Hudson, Aidan Young,

Devin Cairney

Back Row: Jonathan Hsu, Robert Amato,

Benjamin Puskas

#### **ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS**



# A NUMBER OF OUR BOYS ARE INVOLVED IN OTHER ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CHOIR SCHOOL. PERFECT EXAMPLE IS THE AVILA BOYS WHO WERE A SOCCER TOURNAMENT IN THE U.S.A

There are a number of SMCS boys who add competitive sports to their very busy SMCS schedule. These athletes compete at a high level, and some receive national caliber training in many different sports such as volleyball, ice dancing, hockey, football and soccer. This translates to having another 3-5 days a week of body-mind training that needs to be managed.

For the brothers, Michael (Grade 9), David (Grade 6) and Daniel Avila (Grade 4) soccer is the choice of sport. On top of playing for the school team, they train with Master's Futbol Academy (MFA) in Pickering, Ontario and coached by Junior Groves and Brooke McCalla. MFA is known for helping players receive university scholarships and a few players have joined national teams. Last year, Michael was part of the U14 championship team while David and Daniel participated at the regional tryouts for Danone Cup's U12 Canada team.

Competitive Soccer has also given the Avila boys the opportunity to travel to the US and within Canada. This coming July 2013, they will compete at the prestigious AC Milan Continental Cup, part of the International Youth Sports Festival in Cleveland, Ohio. In this tournament, the players will compete with soccer clubs from countries like Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Canada and USA.

Sports teaches values of discipline, commitment, excellence, teamwork and leadership. It allows kids to dream a bit, learn about their personal strengths and limitations, and have a lot of fun. For Michael, David and Daniel the dream is to compete in a tournament in Europe. Wherever soccer would take them, they will always be proud students and ambassadors of St. Mike's Choir School.





Left picture: SMCS students Daniel, Michael and David at the 2012 Awards' ceremony.

CHOIR SCHOOL NEWS June, 2013

# **ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS**





Jayden Greig (Gr. 4) has been acting since the age of 6. His work includes commercials, television series, short films, and feature films.

Recently, he has been cast in his biggest role to date, which is also his first role in a musical theatre production. His performance as "Michael Banks" in Mary Poppins is one of the lead characters in the musical. During the months of March and April he performed 4 shows a week in Cambridge for Drayton Entertainment.

He will rejoin the company of Mary Poppins for an additional 3 week run of the musical in August in Grand Bend.

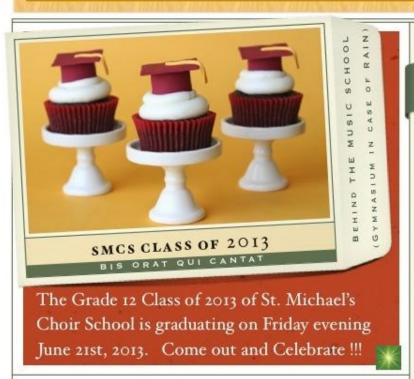
Much appreciation is sent out to the families that came out to support Jayden.





CHOIR SCHOOL NEWS June, 2013





#### DEAR CHOIR SCHOOL FAMILIES

here will be a reception in honour of our graduates and in keeping with tradition, the parents of the other grades will be hosting this joyful event. The reception is for the entire Choir School community following the Mass and graduation ceremonies in the Cathedral.



We are inviting each of you to share and participate by contributing some food. As always, it is an opportunity to spend some time together as a Choir School family before we all break for the summer. Please bring all items, preferably already arranged on serving trays or platters with utensils and covered with saran wrap and/or foil.



Also consider volunteering in set-up and/or clean up for this event. Your help is needed to ensure the success of this very special evening for everyone.

In order for everyone to attend the Mass, Music and service, please drop-off items between 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm



# Food Items

Grade 3 + 7



Cupcakes / Squares Cookies / Desserts (Nut-free please)

Grade 4 + 8

Sandwiches / Antipasto Platters Cold Cuts, Empanadas, Wraps

(Please provide cold packs if required)

Grade 9 + 10

Vegetable / Fruit Trays



Grade 5 + 6

Hors d'oeurves / Hot Items Chicken Wings, Spring Rolls, Sausage Rolls, Samosas, Pizza

Grade 11

Cheese / Crackers / Chips / Pitas

Volunteer / Questions ?

**David Gatchalian** 

david.gatchalian@rogers.com

Pina Povolo

ppovolo@rogers.com



# St. Michael's Choir School

Invites you to celebrate the end of the school year at our

Annual Closing Ceremonies

Awards Ceremony Part 1

Friday, June 21, 2013 at 1:00 P.M.

Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen Street East

9

Part 2

Mass of Thanksgiving Celebrating our 75th Anniversary

and

Graduation Ceremony

with

Cardinal Thomas Collins

Friday, June 21, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Michael's Cathedral 65 Bond Street

Reception - 66 Bond Street

# Special Up-Coming Choir School Events



June 3 and 4, 2013 - EQAO TESTING GRADE 6

Friday, June 7, 2013 - Elementary P.A. Day

June 3 to 7, 2013 - Piano House Exams—Grade 3 to 8

Wednesday, June 5, 2013 - Late Start—for High School Students

June 10 and 11, 2013 - RCM Exam

June 13 to 18, 2013 - High School Exams

Friday, June 21,2013 - Closing Ceremonies Part I—Metropolitan Church 56 Queen St.

I:00 P.M.

Closing Ceremonies Part 2—St. Michael's Cathedral—7:30 P.M.

Saturday, June 22, 2013 - Grade 12 Graduation Dinner at St. Michael's College University—

6:45 P.M.

Tuesday, June 25, 2013 - Grade 8 Graduation—St. Michael's Cathedral—Luncheon—Ryerson

Thursday, June 27, 2013 - Last Day of Instruction for Elementary Students

Friday, June 28, 2013 - P.A. Day

SMCS NEWSLETTER PAGE 21

### PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



**DIRECTOR: MR. BRUCE RODRIGUES** 

**SUPERINTENDENT:** 

Mr. J. Shanahan

(416) 222-8282 Ex. 5371



#### WARDS

- 1. PETER JAKOVCIC
- 2. ANN ANDRACHUK CHAIR
- 3. SAL PICCININNI VICE-CHAIR
- 4. PATRIZIA BOTTONI
- 5. MARIA RIZZO
- 6. FRANK D'AMICO
- 7. JOHN DEL GRANDE
- 8. TOBIAS ENVERGA
- 9. JO-ANN DAVIS (416) 512-3409
- 10. BARBARA POPLAWSKI
- 11. ANGELA KENNEDY
- 12. NANCY CRAWFORD

STUDENT TRUSTEE - ANDREW WALKER





TRUSTEE FOR ST MICHAEL'S CHOIR SCHOOL

joann.davis@tcdsb.org - www.jo-anndavis.ca

#### **SMCS 2012-2013 CSAC REPRESENTATIVES**

DAVID GATCHALIAN - CO-CHAIR
GEOFF RAWLINSON - CO-CHAIR
MANDE PUSKAS - SECRETARY
PINA POVOLO - TREASURER

# ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO Chancellor: Cardinal Thomas Collins

# St. Michael's Choir School Advisory

Rev. Ivan Camilleri, Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs

Mr. Jim Milway, Chancellor of Temporal Affairs

Mr. William Dunlop, Comptroller, Archdiocese of Toronto

Rev. Michael Busch, Rector of St. Michael's Cathedral

Rev. Brian Clough, SMCS alumnus, Chair, Judicial Vicar

 $Rev.\ Larry\ Leger,\ Chair\ Nominating\ Committee$ 

Dr. Constance Price

Mr. Paul Harrs, SMCS alumnus, Chair Property & Maintenance Committee

Dr. Joseph Gasser, SMCS alumnus

Mr. Michael Bernsiewicz, SMCS Alumnus, Chair of Finance

Ms. Patricia Parisi, Chair Governance committee

Ms. Anne Bolger

Ms. Andrea Chisholm

Ms. Kathryn Lagroix, Parent

Dr. Paul Gauvreau, Parent



