



Foundation Newsletter

A Newsletter for MCS Foundation Members
November 2017

 foundation.mcs.hk



Message from the Chairperson



I would like to thank the entire Council who has supported me to continue to be the Chairperson for the Foundation for another year ahead. Without the support of the Council, I would not have been able to achieve all those initiatives targeted at the beginning of my term last year. In particular, I would like to thank all those who joined our 13th AGM of the Maryknoll Foundation held on 23 September 2017. I would like to thank Ms. Melaine Lee, Principal of the Secondary Section and Ms. Doris Yuen, our new Principal of the Primary Section together with her team for the generous support extended to the Foundation.

Alumni Resources

Maryknoll Sisters founded our School in 1925 with an objective to provide an all rounded quality education affordable to all. This core value of the Maryknoll Sisters is the cornerstone principle of the Foundation Mission. When many schools in Hong Kong became Direct Subsidy Schools (DSS), allowing freedom for schools to choose their students and school fees to be charged without constraint, we had decided to remain as a Government aided school because we believe that would better facilitate us in carrying out our Mission.

As an aided school, Maryknoll has relatively limited funding and resources from the Hong Kong Government. However, we are extremely blessed to have an extremely strong and resourceful Alumni group which the School can rely on for support.

Over the years, former students and different Alumni groups have contributed much to the School in their own ways. Apart from financial contributions and sponsorships offered directly to the MCS Educational Trust (Trust), many have helped to raise funds for the Trust through participating in various fund raising projects, such as, attending the annual "Pun Choi" gathering organized by the FSA, participating in the "Relay for Love" to support the Sports Fund and, also, producing beautiful Floral pattern products for sale etc.

Some Alumni have also directly sponsored the School. In 2017, the Class of 77 donated over \$1 million to the Secondary Section to set up a 21st Century Classroom. In addition, they also provided the expertise to complete the project. Further, another Alumna donated \$2 million to revamp the Cookery Room. The FSA pledged \$400K to the Primary Section for re-flooring of the Basketball Court.





Aside from providing financial resources, our Alumni also contributed in the form of offering their professional expertise. For example, a Maryknoller who is an IP lawyer assisted the Foundation in dealing with Maryknoll Trade Mark issues; another Maryknoller who is a doctor gave talks to our girls on health issue etc. A few other Alumni offered their connections in lining up visits for teachers and students visiting Cathay Pacific, Google and many other prominent organizations; such visits may not materialize if there were no Maryknoller to pull the strings. In certain instances, a number of Alumni offered job shadowing and internships for our students who may not experience such opportunities if their employers were not Maryknollers. Many more Alumni offered their services in joining and serving various Alumni led organisations, namely, the Foundation, FSA and the Trust.

Our School has not only provided us with knowledge but has also taught us the good values which helped to shape us into what we are today. We have been taught to share and care. Having received so much from the School, many Alumni have asked how they could serve and contribute to their Alma Mater. Maryknoll Alumni is an invaluable asset to the School. There are still many Alumni who wanted to serve but do not know how to. We must tap on all available resources that come to us. As the School Sponsoring Body, the Foundation would take the lead to work with two Sections in collaboration with FSA and the Trust to maximize Alumni resources in a continuous and structured manner.

Succession Planning

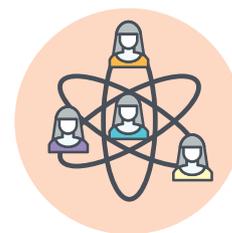
Succession planning is important to the continuation of any organization. A core group consisted of myself, the 2 Supervisors, Conveners of the Communication and Membership Committees and a few Councillors were formed with the mandate to (1) review the existing succession protocol for recruitment and engagement of members and for appointment of EMs, Councillors and SSB managers, including, the Supervisors (2) with 7 out of 8 SSB managers having their terms expiring in August 2018. Another objective of the core group is to consider and recommend to the Council suitable candidates to be appointed as SSB managers of the IMC of both Sections for the term commencing September 2018.



Review protocol



Recommend to Appoint



Engage members

For succession purpose, simply recruiting new members is not enough, we must actively engage with our members to get them involved and contribute. There are a number of ways to do so. As a starting point, they should learn more about the Foundation and the School through our Newsletters and Foundation website, and, also, joining our AGM and other events organized by the Foundation; however, that may not be enough. As one of the first projects to engage our members, the Communication Committee and Membership Committee jointly organised the Foundation's inaugural Members' Orientation Day on 14 October 2017.

At the meeting, our members were provided the opportunity not only to get to know each other better, but more importantly, to find out more about how our School operates, the roles and functions of the Foundation, and how they, as members, can get involved and contribute to the Foundation.





Memberships

Foundation has 2 levels of memberships: Members (OM) are Ordinary Members when an Alumna first joins the Foundation; Executive Members (EM) have the right to nominate and be nominated or stand for election as Councillors. EMs are seen as the grooming ground for potential Councillors. Our Foundation Constitution provides for only 50 EMs (15 of which are already Councillors). For succession planning purpose, Council has endorsed the resolution of increasing the number of EMs from 50 to 70. Amendments to our Constitution will be required; an EGM will be convened to approve them. Please stay tuned for the development on this front.

Roll of Honor



In recognition of distinguished members for their exceptional contributions to the School or the Foundation, a “Roll of Honor” was set up. This year, there were 3 nominations, namely, Ms. Lucy Lee, a 1963 graduate and a former Councillor. As a Canon Law expert, Lucy acted as an advisor to the Council on matters relating to the Church and the Diocese for years. The second nominee was Mrs. Hilda Kan, a former Principal of the Primary Section (2004-2010) and, also, one of the founding Councillors of the Foundation. The 3rd nominee was Mrs. Teresa Chow, a former Principal of the Primary Section (1995-1997). Teresa is an active Foundation member who always attends our events offering her generous support. My heartiest congratulations and thanks to the 3 of them!

Outgoing Councillors

I would like extend my heartfelt thanks to two retiring Council members, Mrs. Dorothy Chan and Dr. Belinda Leung, for their unflinching support to the School and Foundation during their term.

Thank You!



Our Vision and Mission and Strategic Focuses

Since the Foundation adopted the 4 Strategic Focuses last year, the Foundation has spent much of its efforts in ensuring that they are promulgated on all possible fronts. Very encouraging results can be seen in the initiatives set out in our regular Supervisors’ reports of our Primary and Secondary Sections.

We hope all of you will continue to live up to our Vision and Mission and constantly adhere to our 4 Strategic Focuses everyday of your life!

Barbara Hung
Chairperson, MCS Foundation





Mcs Foundation 2017 AGM

23 September 2017 (Saturday)

As we entered the Secondary Section school ground and proceeded towards the School Hall, we could not help but to look around and check out different corners of the lawn, the building, the Maryknoll red bricks, as well as the School Hall, to recollect memories of our own school days. Everyone was so happy to 'return to school' once again for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 23 September 2017, and met by the warm welcome of friends, teachers, Principals and Vice Principals of both the Primary Section (PS) and the Secondary Sections (SS), as well as Council members of the Foundation. The AGM was opened with a prayer led by Council member, Ms. Irene Li. The atmosphere in the School Hall was further uplifted by the singing of the school song "O Maryknoll".



As usual, the highlight of the AGM was the Chairperson's report delivered by Chairlady Barbara Hung. As mentioned in her message in this Newsletter, it has been another busy year for the Foundation which continued to work closely with members and sub-committees of the Incorporated Management Committees (IMC) of both PS and SS, with specific attention on the four Strategic Focuses developed last year based on Maryknoll's Vision and Mission.

The meeting continued with reports from Mrs. Helen Yu, Supervisor of PS, and Dr. Maria Lee, Supervisor of SS. With the Maryknoll Vision and Mission and the Foundation's four Strategic Focuses as background, Mrs. Yu shared with us how MCS continued to provide students with STREAM education – an extension from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) to the additional focus on Religion and Arts (e.g. Art, Music & Performance) at Maryknoll, thus, comprising well-balanced school activities ranging from academic curriculum, different interests, such as, arts, music and sports to services.





The Education Bureau (EDB)'s central allocation system facilitated students to join the School with different backgrounds and benefit from learners' diversity. Out of all our P6 leavers, close to 80% remain in MCS and progress to SS. In terms of human resources, the School provides professional development programs, including, both local and international collaborated programs for teachers and staff. In parallel, there are also various support services for students, such as, moral, ethical and spiritual education, internal and external programs for gifted students, exchange programs with other local & non-local schools, provision of School Guidance Personnel and Education Psychologist, Special Education Needs (SEN), P1 Orientation for early identification of gifted or special needs, as well as promotion of healthy lifestyle etc.

For the SS, Dr. Lee shared with us certain completed and upcoming improvement projects in School, such as, the IT upgrade for the Library or the upcoming refurbishment of the Domestic Science room, all kindly sponsored by MCS Alumni, Parent-Teacher Association, or generous external donors. Student activities and achievements were also shared to highlight the diverse interests and abilities of MCS students, from STEM to music and performing arts, sports and, also, wellness activities to religious development, from Student Association activities to social services and programs that connect students to the world.

Both Mrs. Yu and Dr. Lee recognized the achievements of MCS students. More information on awards, prizes and scholarships may be found in the respective School websites.

(PS: http://www.mcsp.edu.hk/achievement_17-18.asp and SS: http://www.mcs.edu.hk/mcs_1213/prize1617.htm)

The Foundation AGM then proceeded to other agenda items, including, updates from the Membership Committee and Communication Committee, the Foundation accounts and balance sheets, the reports of the Council and the Honorary Auditors, and noting of the appointment and re-appointment of twenty-seven Executive Members and five Council Members. Another highlight of the AGM was the appointment of Ms. Christina Chan (class of 1981) as our new Councillor, Ms. Cordelia Chung (class of 1977), Ms. Joyce Chan (class of 2004) and Ms. Jessica Wong (class of 2000) as our new Executive Members and, also, the election of Ms. Antoinette Lee (class of 1988) as our new Councillor and Ms. Maureen Chow (class of 1991) as our new Executive Member – Congratulations!!





After the AGM was adjourned, we continued to enjoy the opportunity of informal gathering over some delicious snacks and refreshments, while also snapping up some attractive souvenirs before they ran out of stock.





MCS Primary Section Supervisor's Report

- Vision & Mission
 - o All-round quality education affordable to all
 - o Emphasis on character building
 - o Four Strategic Focuses
 - o STREAM at MCS – extension from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education to the additional focus on Religion and Arts (e.g. Art, Music & Performance)
 - o Wide variety of extra-curricular activities across well-balanced areas: academic, interest, arts, music, sports and services
 - o Collaboration between PS and SS
 - o Partnerships with parents, especially in sharing positive values
- Subsidized School with all students allocated by the Education Bureau; MCS students come from different backgrounds and benefit from learners' diversity
- Our Students
 - o Enrolment of 907 students in 30 classes, of which 40% is Catholic
 - o Special Educational Needs (SEN) cases in the past 5 academic years ranging from 1% to 2.9% (out of the total number of students)
 - o Placement of P6 Leavers – close to 80% of them progresses to MCS SS
- Our teachers and staff
 - o Staff establishment and strength, including a suitable mix of teaching experiences (e.g. over 40% of teachers possess 16 or more years of teaching experience, another 33% of teachers possess 1-5 years of teaching experience)
 - o Professional development programs including both local programs and international collaborations
- Finances
 - o Mainly from Government Subsidies
 - o Other financial resources, include, Class Fees and fundraising and sponsorship initiatives of the MCS Educational Trust





- Students' Support Services
 - o Moral, ethical and spiritual education
 - o Gifted education – both internal & external programs
 - o Exchange programs with other schools, local & elsewhere
 - o Other education needs: SEN, School Guidance Personnel, Education Psychologist, P1 Orientation for early identification of learning conditions (e.g. gifted or special needs)
 - o Promotion of healthy lifestyle, e.g.
 - Well-balanced diet, including, a daily choice of vegetarian meal
 - Recognition of Advanced Level Accreditation in the EatSmart School Accreditation Scheme of Department of Health for both lunch & snacks

- Student Performance & Achievement
 - o Impressive results in inter-school, district and international competitions etc.
 - o In various areas, ranging from scholastic / self-learning, music, visual arts, debate, sports, and also traditional Chinese cultural activities such as lion & dragon dance etc.





MCS Secondary Section Supervisor's Report

- Opening
 - o Four Strategic Focuses
 - o SS has a total of 955 students and 100 staff members

- Support Services for Students
 - o Library IT upgrade
 - o Newly fitted 21st Century Classroom and supportive education room
 - o Upcoming projects for new equipment for e-learning, refurbishment of the Domestic Science and Cookery Rooms, new equipment for Music Room etc.

- Student Activities & Achievements
 - o STEM – competition, overseas training camps, local & overseas workshops, talks by external speakers etc.; learning experiences for both MCS students & staff
 - o Music & Performing Arts – ranging from Chinese opera appreciation to Chinese orchestra; and awards and recognition by external professionals, exposures to performances by international professionals
 - o Sports & Wellness – ranging from inter-school competitions to programs, such as, Campus Healthy Ambassadors for students, and wellness-themed Staff Development Day
 - o Religious Development – Maryknoll Day, Catholic Week, Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Retreat for Confirmandis and Newly Baptised, Pilgrimage and Meeting with Maryknoll Sisters in Macau, various masses and prayer services
 - o Student Association – campaign and inauguration, annual funfair
 - o Service – Red Cross YU25 Service Projects, China Learning Trip
 - o Connecting to the World – Talks by Global, Citizenship and Civic Education (GCCE), Multicultural Day, June Fourth Forum, Mentorship Program, Job Shadowing Program, China Learning Trip

- External Scholarships & Awards and Prizes 2016/17 (as displayed in SS school website)





Foundation Members' Orientation Day

14 October 2017 (Saturday)

The Assembly Hall in the New Wing of the MCS Primary Section was again buzzing with joy and excitement when over 130 Maryknollers gathered on the Orientation Day to find out what's been keeping the Foundation busy.

As old girls arrived, they were right away invited to join in the 'Getting to Know You' bingo game so as to quickly get to know fellow Maryknollers of different years. The Foundation Chairperson Barbara Hung then delivered her Welcome Remarks, after which a detailed introduction was made by Council Member Ophelia Ngan ('84) covering the objectives, roles, functions and powers of the Foundation which is the School Sponsoring Body (SSB), its functions and powers of which are set out according to the Education (Amendment) Ordinance 2004.



Based on the Education Bureau's school-based management framework, the relationship between the Foundation, the Incorporated Management Committees (IMCs), and the Schools (PS and SS) was clearly defined, in particular, more details were provided regarding the composition of IMC members of both Schools i.e. each IMC comprises of School Supervisor and SSB managers, School Principal, Teacher Manager, Parent Manager, Alumnae Manager and Independent Manager.

In addition, the relationship and differences between roles and functions of the Foundation, the Educational Trust and the Former Students' Association (FSA) were clearly explained.

Foundation Membership and Communication Committees were then introduced, including, greetings from Council Members who were present at the Orientation Day, highlights of specific activities and events initiated by the Foundation in recent years, as well as the background and implementation of the four Strategic Focuses were developed.





Further understanding about the Foundation was made through different ways that day: sharing from Maggie Chong ('95) about her experience as an Executive Member and her involvement in different activities and projects of the Foundation and the School; a very engaging and energetic round of quiz game with souvenirs for those who answered questions correctly and quickly; and also group discussions on how each Foundation Member could better contribute to the School and the well-being of its students.



As highlighted in the Chairperson Barbara's Thank You note, the Foundation is keen to connect with Maryknollers who wish to show their support and commitment to the School, especially those who wish to serve and contribute to the Alma Mater, through first being a Member of the Foundation. We hope that the level of interest and energy from the Orientation Day will continue and that we will be able to engage with more and more Foundation Members and make contribution together.





Message from Mrs. Josephine Lo

Time really flies. My tenure as a teacher and then the Principal ended on 31 August 2017 after thirty-four happy, productive and rewarding years at MCS. Thanks to Barbara the Chair and the Membership Team members, my service at MCS continues, without any lapse, on 1 September 2017 when I became a Foundation member.

It's an amazing privilege and phenomenal experience for me to be a part of the Maryknoll family, in the midst of so much energy, wisdom, love and dedication. The vitality, insights, commitment and love of the Maryknoll Sisters, staff and alumnae are the most formidable assets of the school. We share the same Maryknoll vision, challenges and future.

Teaching is not just a profession, it is a mission. Teachers are sowing seeds, helping students to exploit their potentials, to turn their inspiration into aspiration, and aspiration into realization. They nurture the skills today that will shape the students' tomorrow.

To excel in an increasingly complex, globalized economy and the age of technology, students need to be dynamic, intrinsically motivated independent lifelong learners with the right moral values, attitudes and, a good sense of humour.

I strongly agree with Lynn Stoddard and Anthony Dallmann-Jones' seven "I"s advocated in their book "*Educating for Human Greatness*" 2010 :

- Identity** Help students learn who they are as individuals with unlimited potential, develop their unique talents and gifts to realize self-worth, and develop a strong desire to be contributors to family, school and community
- Inquiry** Stimulate curiosity; awaken a sense of wonder and appreciation for nature and humankind. Help students develop the power to ask important questions
- Interaction** Promote courtesy, caring, communication and cooperation
- Initiative** Foster self-directed learning, willpower and self-evaluation
- Imagination** Nurture creativity in all of its many forms
- Intuition** Help students learn how to feel and recognize truth with their hearts as well as with their minds; develop spirituality and humility
- Integrity** Develop honesty, character, morality and responsibility for self





Every child is unique and is a genius. Let us not underestimate the achievement of those students classified as “less able”. Every child is a good seed that will flourish with the right nourishment.

*“Be Joyful in hope,
persevere in hardship;
keep praying regularly;
share with any of God’s holy people who are in need;
look for opportunities to be hospitable.”*

Let’s all strive to keep the Maryknoll spirit burning bright.

Mrs. Josephine Lo
Former MCSPS Principal



Thanks for sowing the seeds.

The Foundation Council (2017-2018)

Back row (from left to right):
Maggie Chau (Vice Chairperson and
Membership Committee Convenor),
Barbara Hung (Chairperson), Doris
Kwan (Vice Chairperson)



Left (from front to back):
Helen Yu, Irene Li, Isabelle Young
(Hon. Treasurer), Christina Chan



Back row (from left to right):
Bonnie Chan, Maura Wong, Ophelia
Ngan, Miranda Poon (Hon. Secretary),
Pinny Yip (Communication Committee
Convenor)

Right (from front to back):
Amy Ho, Maria Lee, Sr. Marilu,
Antoinette Lee

