

O.O.M.A. Update – July 2009

I am going to try something a little different this time. I think I have learned how to put in links to the QMS website that will take you directly to points of interest. This shortcut will make it easier for you to find the places in the website where pertinent information appears. However, I would suggest you also browse the website from time to time as there is a lot there that will interest you. I would also ask you to go to the Alumnae site and fill out the information section about yourself, so others can find out what you have been doing etc. People are gradually doing this and it is great to read a little about these people and know they are keeping in touch with the school.

So.....the weeks between the Old Girls weekend and Speech Day sped by and it was time for the various end of year ceremonies to take place. Awards were handed out to the Junior School and various announcements and updates were made. This year the OOMA presented a \$1000 award in honour of Miss Spurgin's 90th Birthday last Fall, and this was presented to student, Alyssa Elliott. Alyssa will be going up into the Senior School from Grade 7 in September. We were delighted to be able to make this presentation. We'd like to congratulate St. Gabriel's this year on winning the House Trophy. The following students are commended on being appointed as School Prefects and House Captains for the upcoming school year:

2009-10 QMS STUDENT LEADERS

Head Girl: Michiko Kojima

Deputy Head Girl: Rachel Yoo

Prefects: Geneva Grzybowski, Murphy Macdonald, Yumina Nagahata, Bridget Nargang, Jenn Yu

House Captains: Gabes - Winny Fu, Hughs - Jennifer Yu, Mikes - Chloe Wu

We wish them all a happy and enjoyable year!

Speech Day was held on a Friday this year, but this did not seem to cause too many changes. Our Guest Speaker was Jean Topham (Webster-Roberts) '65. Jean trained as a conservator with the Bodleian Library and worked on some books at the U Vic Library before getting involved with theatre in Victoria. Jean helped present the various Book Prizes and School Cups before giving us a very interesting talk about some of the work that she does as a Conservator. For this and other speeches on Speech Day, click on this link, [Speech Day](#). This section also contains a lot of other interesting items on the past school year, so do look at them, too.

Click on [Speech Day Photos](#) to view the photos from this celebratory day. There are a lot of

photos, but you can select a few to get a feeling of the atmosphere at Speech Day. From this site, you can view photos of other events this year by clicking on “Back to Gallery”. There are some wonderful photos in this Gallery.

Returning to the home page, click on “[New Construction Progress](#)” – top right – and see photos of the work being done on the Science and Technology Centre as well as the Equestrian Centre Indoor Ring. By now the Science and Technology Centre is nearly complete and will be in use for the start of the new school year in September. Work is presently being done to upgrade Spurgin Hall (the Sr. School Block) and tie it in to the new entrance to the Science and Technology wing. The ceilings are being raised, lockers removed and other renovations done to make this a more modern and pleasant learning area. It is all very exciting!

During the winter, the snow caused quite extensive damage to the Indoor Riding Arena, and it became obvious that major repairs would be necessary. After consulting with the Insurance Company it was decided that this was an ideal time to pull the old arena down and construct a new state of the art arena with indoor stalls and a full size dressage ring. The design selected is in use at Spruce Meadows, so we are very proud of what we will have when the work is completed. The old ring has already been completely demolished and, all being well, the new facility should be ready by September – watch for photos of the progress of this wonderful new facility!

Finally, and again in connection with the Science and Technology Centre, I would like to remind you that we are trying to raise money to name a classroom in honour of Mrs. Eileen Peltier. She taught at the school from 1981 until her retirement in 2004, and many of you will remember her. It is my hope that we will receive donations to complete payment of this classroom - \$25,000 – within the next few months. One past parent has agreed to donate one dollar for every two we collect this calendar year, to a total of \$5,000. If you feel you can assist in the fund raising effort, please send your donations to the Accounting department, clearly marked as designated for Mrs. Peltier’s Classroom, and you will receive an Income Tax receipt from the school. If you are in touch with other members of your class or Old Girls/parents/staff whom you think might be interested in donating, please forward this email to them, as networking is very important. Thank you!

If you are on the Island and can come by the school, someone will be available to give you a tour of the new buildings. Just phone ahead (1-250-746-4185) to give the Administration staff due warning so that a guide is available to show you around. Keep in touch with us, and check the Alumnae section for past students and staff to send in a brief personal

summary so we can add it to the website so old friends can reconnect.

May I wish you all a very pleasant and safe summer.

With my very best wishes to you all,

Jan

