

## QMS UPDATE SUMMER 2010

Hello everyone!

I had every intention of writing something after Old Girls' Weekend at the beginning of May, but I had holiday plans with Mrs. Peltier and didn't have time to write an update before we left and now suddenly it is nearly the end of July!

Old Girls' Weekend was rather a disappointment for us this year as we had so few Old Girls attend. Those who did had fun, but we must try to do better next year – PLEASE! We planned things a little differently this year, putting on a Strawberry tea on the Saturday afternoon which was quite successful. Those of you who will remember them from the late 90's and early 2000's will remember how enjoyable they were. We are definitely planning to repeat this next year but hope for better attendance. So, for your calendars, make a note of **Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2011**, for the second annual O.O.M.A. Strawberry Tea! More details later!

The Graduating Class of 2010 attended our Dinner on the Saturday evening, and the kitchen staff once again produced a magnificent buffet for about 60 guests. Sunday morning we had an excellent Chapel Service and then the usual Sunday lunch at which the grads were presented with their OOMA pins. This was followed by the AGM at which three members were elected to the Board of Directors. Retiring Directors Shelagh Boggs and Kirsty Grant were re-elected, Sarah Milne was elected for a one year term to replace Elise Shorting who is moving to Alberta, and we were delighted to welcome Jennifer George as a new Director. Congratulations to those members.

Much of the meeting was taken up with a very careful scrutiny of the proposed new By-Laws, made necessary by the change to Open Membership that the AGM in 2009. These had been widely circulated and were passed with only three dissenting votes to any one proposal. The new By-Laws have now been registered as required under the Societies Act and will be sent to anyone requesting a copy.

It was great to see the Old Girls who did attend this year, several of whom are new mums! Congratulations! The first meeting of the new Board of Directors was held immediately after the AGM and Dola Boas was once again elected as President of the O.O.M.A. Dola can be contacted at [seaboa@shaw.ca](mailto:seaboa@shaw.ca) Hannah Morales and Chloe Wu are the two new Grade 12 Reps.

The Annual Gala on May 8<sup>th</sup> was very successful as usual, and took place in Founders' Hall this year. Once again Nicole Bond (MacDonald) waved her magic wand and, with her wonderful helpers, transformed the gym into a beautiful venue for this event.

Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> saw the Queen's Tea Party in honour of Mrs. Pat Rowantree who is retiring at the end of July after serving QMS for the past 6 amazing years. Her tenure sees QMS back on a sound financial footing with all but one of the new buildings completed and in use. Thank you for all your hard work over the past six years, Pat! This event was very well attended despite the rain, and many accolades were paid to Pat during the formal part of the afternoon.

As I am sure you know, Mrs. Wilma Jamieson is taking over as Head of QMS from August 1<sup>st</sup> and we wish her every success and look forward to working with her in the years to come. Mrs. Jamieson is a Duncan resident and has had many years of experience in administration within the Catholic School system. Sharon Klein has been appointed Head of Academics with special responsibility for the Senior School, so there will be continuity in that area of the school. Mr. Stuart Hall has taken up his new position as Head of Christchurch Cathedral School in Victoria and Susan Cruickshank has been appointed to take charge of the QMS Junior School (Pre-K to Grade 7).

Once again Speech Day was held on a Friday and this year the Guest Speaker was Dr. Danielle Holmes (Fritz) DVM, Class of '98. Danielle was also the guest speaker at the opening last November of the new Indoor Riding Arena as she is the school's equestrian vet. Danielle assisted Mrs. Rowantree, Mrs. Klein and Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Michael DeBeck present the prizes to a wide variety of talented students. Her speech was very interesting and she was available



to meet students afterwards. Mrs. Shelagh Boggs stood in for Mrs. Dola Boas who was away, and presented a rose from the OOMA to each graduate. The Class of 2010 consisted of 28 students, but for the first time for many years there were no Lifers in this group.

At the Senior Final Assembly the day before it had been announced that Hannah Morales had been appointed as Head Girl for 2010-2011, following in her sister Sarah's footsteps (2000-2001). Congratulations, Hannah! St. Gabriel's won the House Cup with St. Mikes coming second and St. Hugh's third ☹️☹️☹️. Congratulations St. Gabriels! Guess which House **Hannah** is in???? **Go Hugh's!!!**

As is now determined by the Provincial exams, all students stayed in school after Speech Day, the Grade 10's being the last to leave as they all had to write Math 10 on the last day of exams!!! We would like to wish all students graduating or leaving QMS for some other reason the very best in the future, and are looking forward to seeing all those returning - or new - in September. In the mean time, we hope that all staff and students have a wonderful and relaxing summer.

The final event of the school year for the OOMA Directors is the Strawberry Tea Lea Bubaruz hosts at her beautiful house the weekend after Speech Day. Lea lives at Crescent Beach near White Rock and offered her garden as a venue for a Strawberry Tea some 7 years ago in the hope that it would attract some of our Lower Mainland Old Girls to come out and support their Association. Apparently our Old Girls don't like Strawberries, but many of the locals do, and we have had 7 wonderful weekends preparing for either two or three sittings of what has proven to be a very popular Tea! All the food preparation is done by the Directors while the garden is prepared by Lea's friend Tom, Shauna Boggs (Class of '76) and one or two other volunteers. Over the years Lea has purchased tents so all tables are now protected for the sun – or showers – and we serve 75 people at each sitting.

This June, as our date fell on Fathers' Day, we served a Fathers' Day Brunch at 11am, and which proved extremely popular, as well as two sittings for the Strawberry Tea. Pat Rowantree has helped us with this event since she has been Head of School, and we enlist the assistance of 4-6 Grade 11 students to serve our guests. They have been wonderful ambassadors over the years. Mary Ann O'Hara, who was a House Mother in the early 80's has joined us several times, but this was the first year, I believe, that we actually had some Old Girls come and try our Tea. Their comment was "Why didn't we know about this before?" My answer... "If I have your email address you will have received notification of it each year and/or will in the future!!!"

It is really disappointing when we try to involve Old Girls but no-one seems interested, so once again, I would ask you to let us know what you would like us to organise – **please!** All monies raised by us goes back to the school in one way or another. We still provide the money for our annual Bursary; we have purchased equipment for the school; paid for the bathrooms in the new Dining Room, known as the OOMA Loos(!!!) and have awarded other bursaries or scholarships in recognition of special people. Miss Spurgin was recognised in this way in honour of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and Mrs. Rowantree was recognised for her support of the OOMA this past 6 years. We also helped pay for the Chemistry Lab in the new Science and Technology Building which is named for Mrs. Eileen Peltier. Please support our efforts by joining us at the Bazaar, Old Girls' Weekend of the Strawberry Tea at Lea's, or at any other event! We try not to ask you for donations - though these are obviously always welcome - but hope you can come to some of the events and show your support in that way.

#### **Now for the future.....**

Next year 2011 QMS celebrates its 90th Anniversary, and the OOMA is hoping to make this a special year. As I have already mentioned, Old Girls' Weekend is April 30<sup>th</sup>/May 1<sup>st</sup> as Old Girls' Day is celebrated on the first Sunday on May! We have some ideas for Old Girls' Weekend, but would very much like to hear from **you**, so if you have anything you think would be interesting, new or just plain fun, please contact either Dola or me. We need **your** input! We are trying hard to contact more past students, both male and female, and to this end Kirsty Grant [grantmunro@shaw.ca](mailto:grantmunro@shaw.ca), Jenn George [jenn.lands@gmail.com](mailto:jenn.lands@gmail.com) and Jaime Costin [j\\_hebden@msn.com](mailto:j_hebden@msn.com) have agreed to set up a Membership Committee. Jenn already put in article in the Cowichan News Leader asking anyone who would like to be contacted with news and upcoming events to contact her, so if you are still in contact with anyone from QMS **please** ask them to contact one of



the above Directors. We would also like to find people willing to set up groups of past QMS students in various locations who could perhaps get together once a month for coffee and a chat. It is so important to keep the links of the chain connected! We have students living all around the world but have sadly lost touch with many of them. In this world of high technology, you would think this is easier than previously, but this is not the case. If you change your mailing or email address, please remember to notify me. Believe it or not, QMS is now on Twitter and has its own Facebook site!

The QMS website is being continually upgraded and updated, so please check it regularly. In there you can find out about so many of the things that are going on at the school, connections to newspaper articles about the accomplishments of the students and staff, upcoming events etc. etc. Check out the Campus News section! Look at the photos in the Multimedia gallery. Check the Alumnae section and send in **your** information to the school's website so we can fill in the gaps in that.

Finally...**Dates to remember:**

Dates for Events for 2010-11

Founders' Day – Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 2pm  
Remembrance Day Service – Wednesday November 10<sup>th</sup> 10:45am  
Bazaar – Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm  
Junior School Christmas Concert – Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup>  
Candlelight Carol Services – Sun/Mon. December 12/13<sup>th</sup>  
Old Girls' Weekend - April 30<sup>th</sup>/May 1<sup>st</sup>  
Speech Day – June 17<sup>th</sup>  
Lea's Strawberry Tea (Vancouver) – Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>

Do try to join us for some of these. Help us to make next year's Old Girls' Weekend and the OOMA celebrations of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorable. Get your class together for a Re-union. Send us **your** ideas!

**SPREAD THE WORD!** Pass this on to your friends, post it on Facebook, and talk about your memories of QMS on twitter.

Have a wonderful summer.

With best wishes!

Jan

